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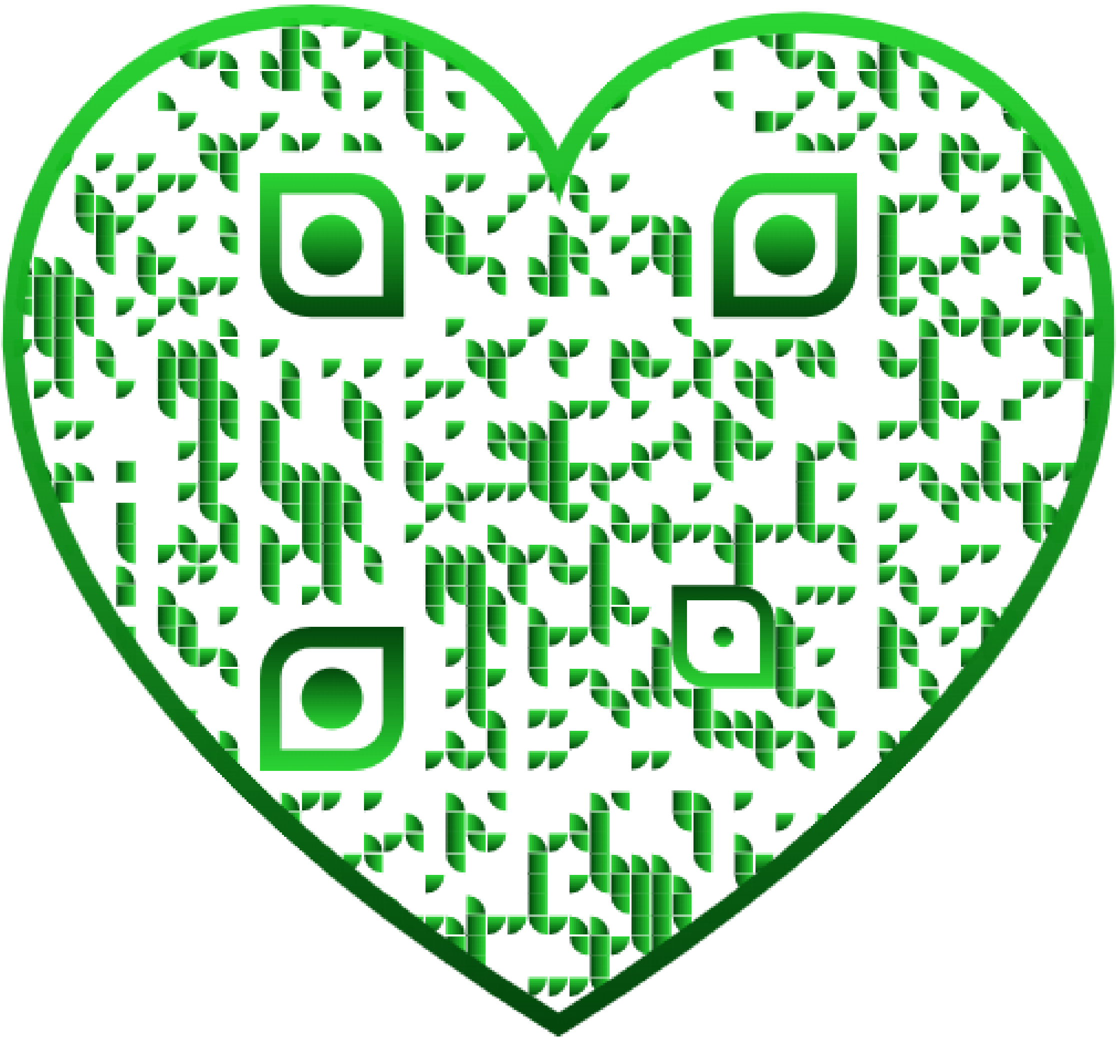
Dozens of ways to
make your life at home
more vibrant

Salsa & Margaritas!
New spins
on old favorites
to jump-start
summer
p. 78

BHG COLOR STARS
Presented by SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
Inspiration and expert tips
from this year's winners
p. 26

JUNE 2025 BHG.COM



Hue by Hue: A CHARLESTON GETAWAY

Where history meets design and color tells a story all its own. In celebration of ***Better Homes & Gardens' 2025 Color Stars***, we invite you to explore the Holy City through the vibrant hues that define its charm, from pastel-painted homes to richly decorated interiors. Let your getaway be guided by the shades and styles shaping the year ahead.

NOSTALGIC Elegance meets history at **The Mills House, Curio Collection by Hilton**, a pink-hued gem of Southern charm. Step outside to Rainbow Row, where pastel townhouses transport you to another era, and and explore the enchanting **Magnolia Plantation and Gardens**, where centuries-old blooms and winding pathways beckon you to lose yourself in nature's splendor.

CLASHING COLORS Experience bold contrasts, where classic and contemporary collide, stay at **Moxy Charleston Downtown**, a boutique hotel bursting with vibrant energy.

EARTHY NEUTRALS Find natural beauty at **Middleton Place**, where ancient oaks and sculpted gardens inspire. Continue at **Emily Daws Textiles**, where handcrafted fabrics bring Charleston's rustic charm home.

MACAROON HUES Dine in sorbet-colored surroundings at **The Darling Oyster Bar**, pairing pastels with fresh seafood. Then, shop at **Rhodes Boutique** for chic, macaroon-inspired fashion finds.

COLOR BLOCKING Stay at **Emeline**, where bold walls, striking art, and vibrant decor bring color-blocking to life. Every corner is a lesson in playful contrasts.

PRIMARY COLORS On King Street, deep blues, bright reds, and sunny yellows pop from stylish boutiques. End with bold flavors at **The Select Restaurant & Bar**, where vivid hues match the menu.

WOOD TONES Dine in warmth at **The Establishment**, where reclaimed wood and coastal flavors create rustic elegance. Or, visit **Oyster House**, where exposed beams enhance the Lowcountry aesthetic.

GREENS At **The Charleston Tea Garden**, lush fields set the scene for a refreshing sip of freshly brewed tea. Continue the theme at **Rudy Royale**, where greenery-filled interiors complement bold Southern cuisine.

TUTTI FRUTTI Toast to Charleston's vibrant spirit at **The Citrus Club**, a rooftop bar at **The Dewberry Charleston** where lively color mirrors the tropical cocktails.

METALLICS For a touch of glamour, **The Thoroughbred Club** at **The Charleston Place** shines with mirrored accents and rich metallic tones—luxury at its finest.

From architectural pastels to the rich textures of the Lowcountry, the Charleston area is a living canvas ready to inspire your next design project. Plan your visit today and discover the hues of history, hospitality, and high style!

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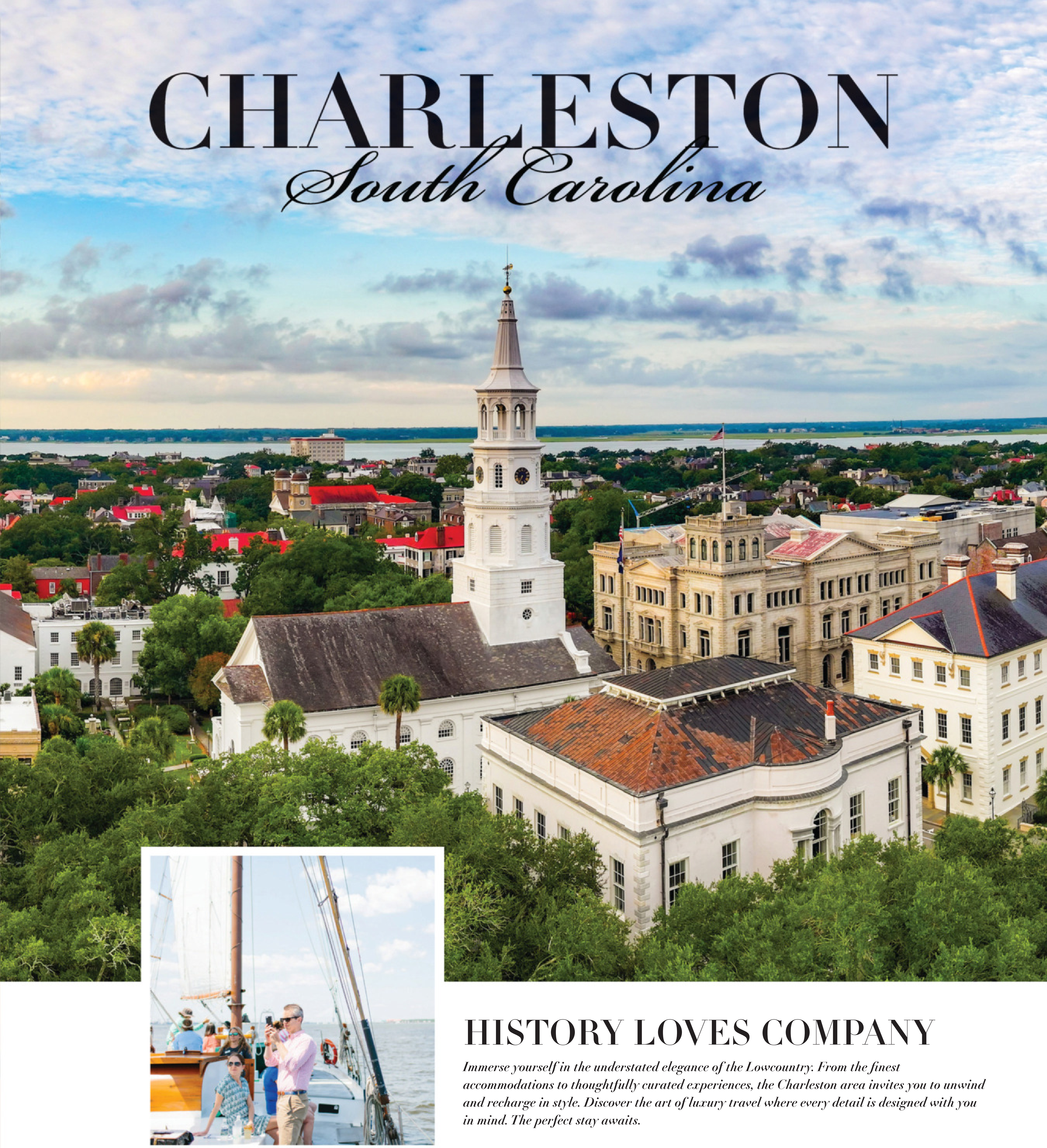
COMPLIMENTARY VACATION GUIDE.



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june

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PHOTO: CARSON DOWNING

ON THE COVER *photo* MANUEL RODRIGUEZ

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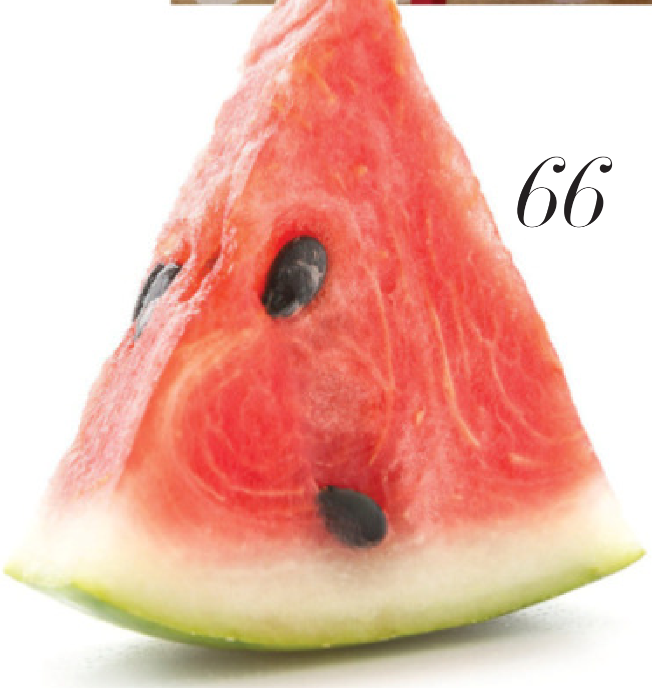

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PHOTOS: (SALSAS, PLANTS) CARSON DOWNING, (ROOM) RACHAEL SMITH, (WATERMELON) IVAN NEGRU/500PX BY GETTY IMAGES. FOR SERVICE ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTION, INCLUDING CHANGE OF ADDRESS, WRITE TO: BETTER HOMES & GARDENS CUSTOMER SERVICE, P.O. BOX 37449, BOONE, IA 50037-0449. PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR ADDRESS LABEL FROM A RECENT ISSUE. OR VISIT US AT *BHG.COM/MYACCOUNT*.

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Color Me Happy

THERE'S AN INTERESTING phenomenon called nose blindness, characterized by your sense of smell temporarily tuning out a scent that it's gotten used to. A similar effect occurs when we become immune to details that we often see in our homes, no longer noticing flaws or dullness. Then something will happen that causes us to see a space with new eyes.

I remember sometime in the fall of 2020 sitting at the little desk in my guest room, where I'd been working from home for the past seven months. Suddenly the utter boringness of this room struck hard as I stared at my Zoom background. Its bones are lovely, and I was lucky to have a space to myself with windows on three sides looking out on our woody backyard. But the scene inside was, let's just say, less than inspiring. Off-white walls, dingy white trim and ceiling, white blinds, a cream linen headboard—a sea of ennui in decorating form. (Not that shades of white, when layered well, can't be beautiful; this just wasn't that.)

I immediately ordered a stack of large peel-and-stick paint samples (an absolutely genius invention) and set about planning ways to inject some much-needed life into the space. And by life, in this case, I mean color.

Aside from that one celery hue I picked for an old bedroom that turned out to be more of a blinding highlighter yellow, I have never been disappointed by adding a dose (or three) of color to a room. A new set of cobalt-and-coral block print shams for the bed. The tangerine whorls of a kantha cloth throw tucked over the back of our brown leather sofa. A shaggy purple-and-red Moroccan rug pepping up the den's gray wall-to-wall. Every one of these additions has made me quite happy, not just at the moment of execution, but really every time I walk into the space and those brushes of color catch my eye again.

In this, our annual Color Issue, you'll find dozens of happy-making ideas for adding more color to your life, particularly from the talented batch of designers and creatives who made this year's list of Color Stars *(page 26)*.

Here's to living vibrantly!

Oma

OMA BLAISE FORD,
Senior Executive Editor

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OUR HUE CARDS...

"My home follows a consistent neutral palette overall, but my favorite room is painted head to toe in vibrant terra-cotta. It's a moment of big-time drama that doesn't go overboard."

—LAUREN BENGTSON,
senior market editor

"My bedroom scheme is fairly simple (because, *hello,* serene sleeping space), but drum pendants in green and blue circus stripes keep the look interesting."

—CAITLIN SOLE,
assoc. editorial director,
BHG.com
(See our new favorite way to upgrade ceiling fixtures, p. 22)

"I added a splash of color to the tucked-away spaces in my home, enveloping the dining room, powder room, and pantry in chalky shades of blue-green."

—MONIKA EYERS,
senior home editor

PHOTO: CARSON DOWNING; HAIR STYLIST: BAILEY STONE; MAKEUP: IVY BOYD; ILLUSTRATIONS: (BENGTSON, EYERS) JESSICA DURRANT, (SOLE) LAMONT O'NEAL

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Crafting an Outdoor Oasis

Make your home the talk of the neighborhood this summer.

1
CURB APPEAL
Get expert tips on how to boost your home's charm with the top exterior trends of 2025.

2
DRIVEWAY SOCIALS
What's the hottest destination for entertaining friends this summer? Your driveway! Find out why.

3
DECKED OUT
Upgrade your deck with smart technology and comfy furniture. Or consider building the popular multilevel deck for a functional space that suits your needs.

Go to *BHG.com/OutdoorOasis* for all the best outdoor tips and ideas in one place.

Homeowner 101

On the MOVE

Our smart new guide, *Moving In,* will help you with every facet of settling in to a new place. You'll find our moving-day checklist, as well as tricks for optimizing tight spaces, info on the DIY tasks every homeowner should be able to tackle, and more from BHG editors and the pros at Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate.

Scan the code for the full moving guide.

Sweepstakes

Win $25,000

Enter for a chance to score cash to use toward renovations, decor, or a home improvement project of your choice!
BHG.com/25kUpgrade
For details, see *page 93.*

For the Bees

Did you know our line at Walmart includes exclusive plant varieties? One of our new favorites is this vibrant pink-and-yellow dahlia that's a real bee magnet. Look for the Better Homes & Gardens Summer Bees Dahlias at your local store.

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PHOTOS: (HOUSE) WERNER STRAUBE, (FLOWERS) COURTESY OF WALMART

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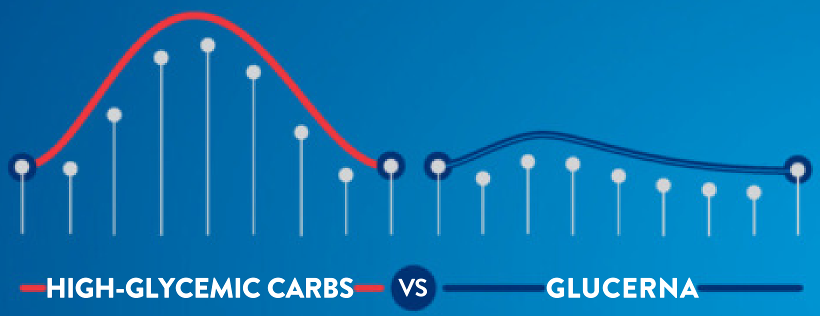

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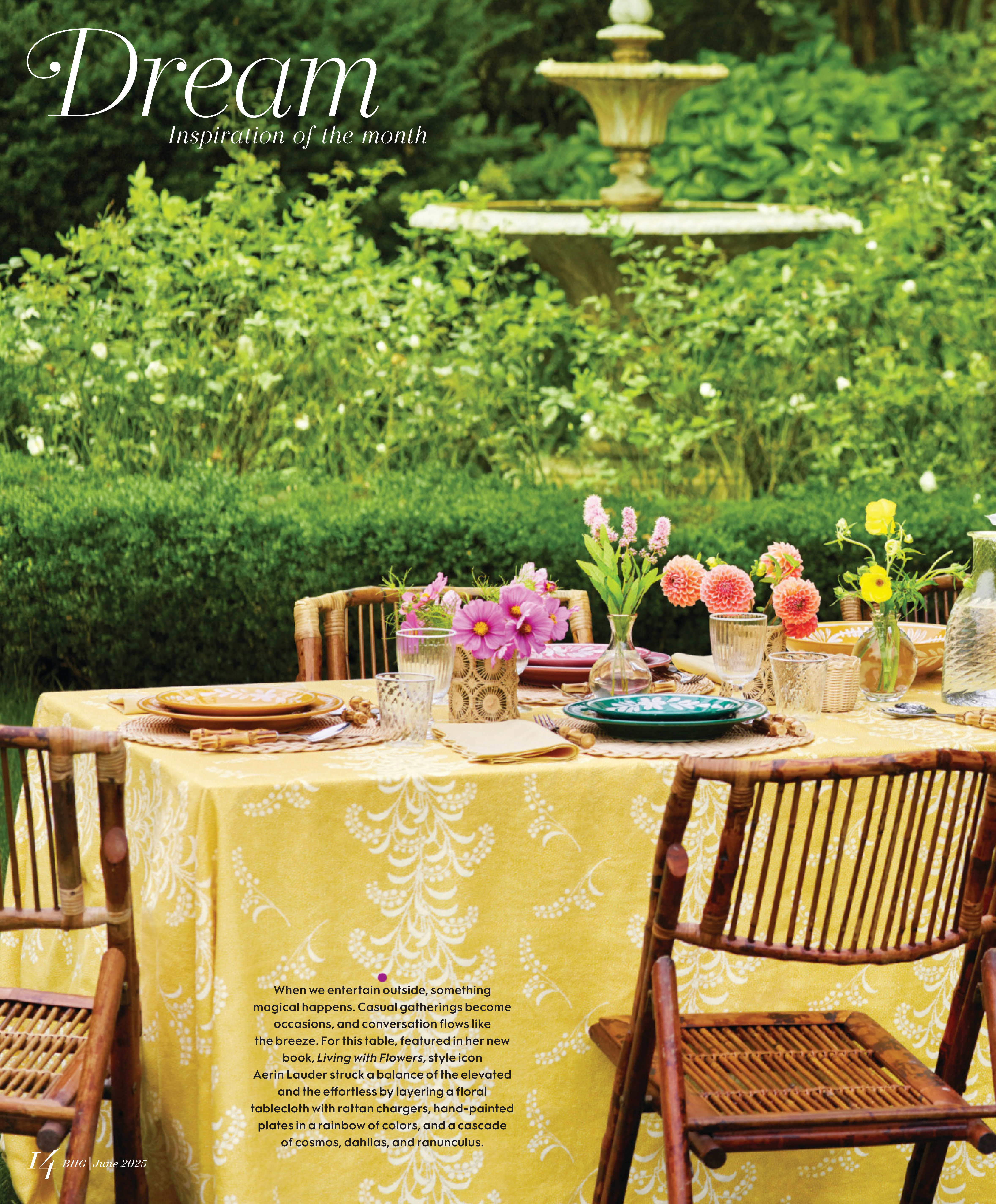
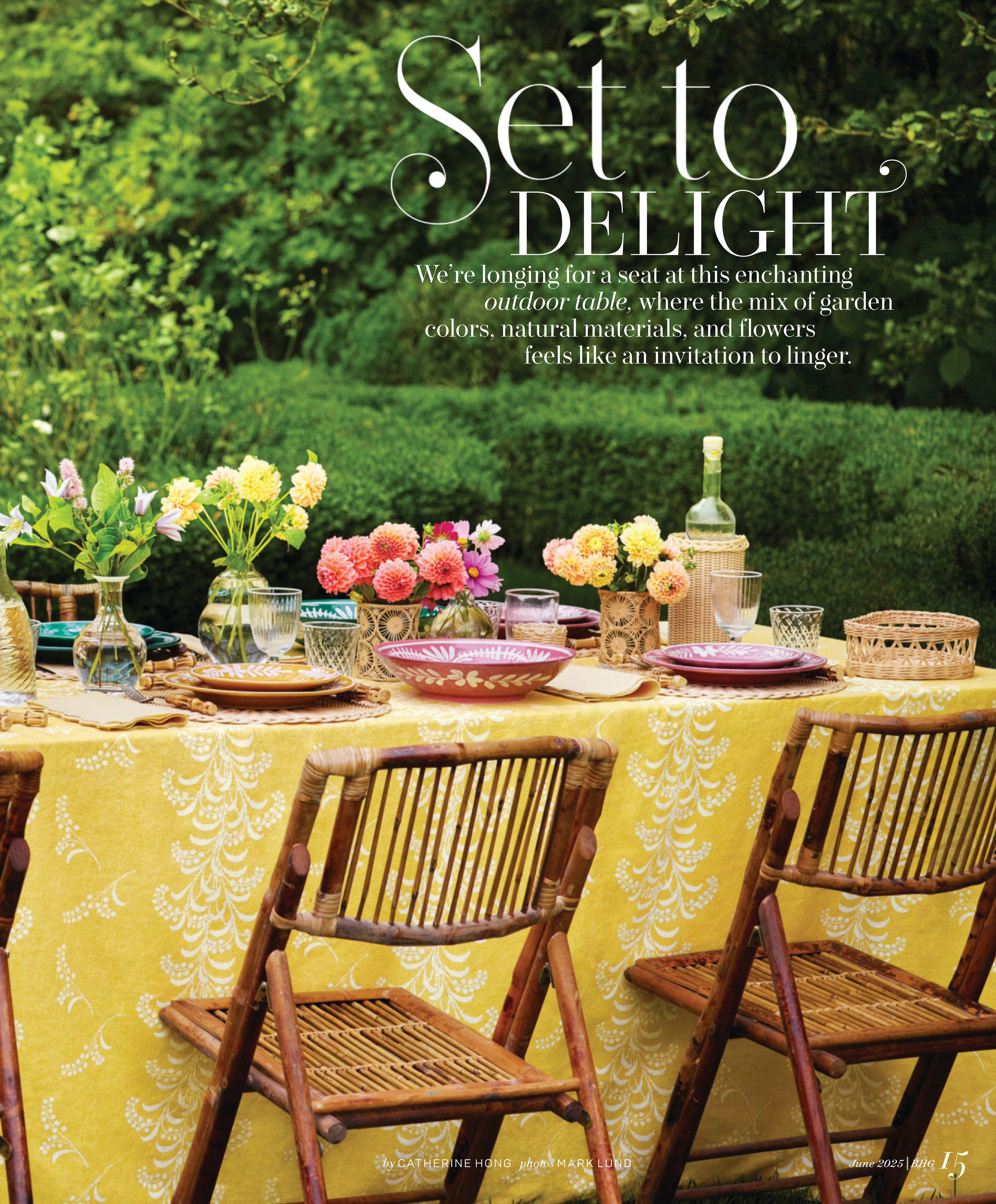
Dream

Inspiration of the month



When we entertain outside, something magical happens. Casual gatherings become occasions, and conversation flows like the breeze. For this table, featured in her new book, *Living with Flowers*, style icon Aerin Lauder struck a balance of the elevated and the effortless by layering a floral tablecloth with rattan chargers, hand-painted plates in a rainbow of colors, and a cascade of cosmos, dahlias, and ranunculus.

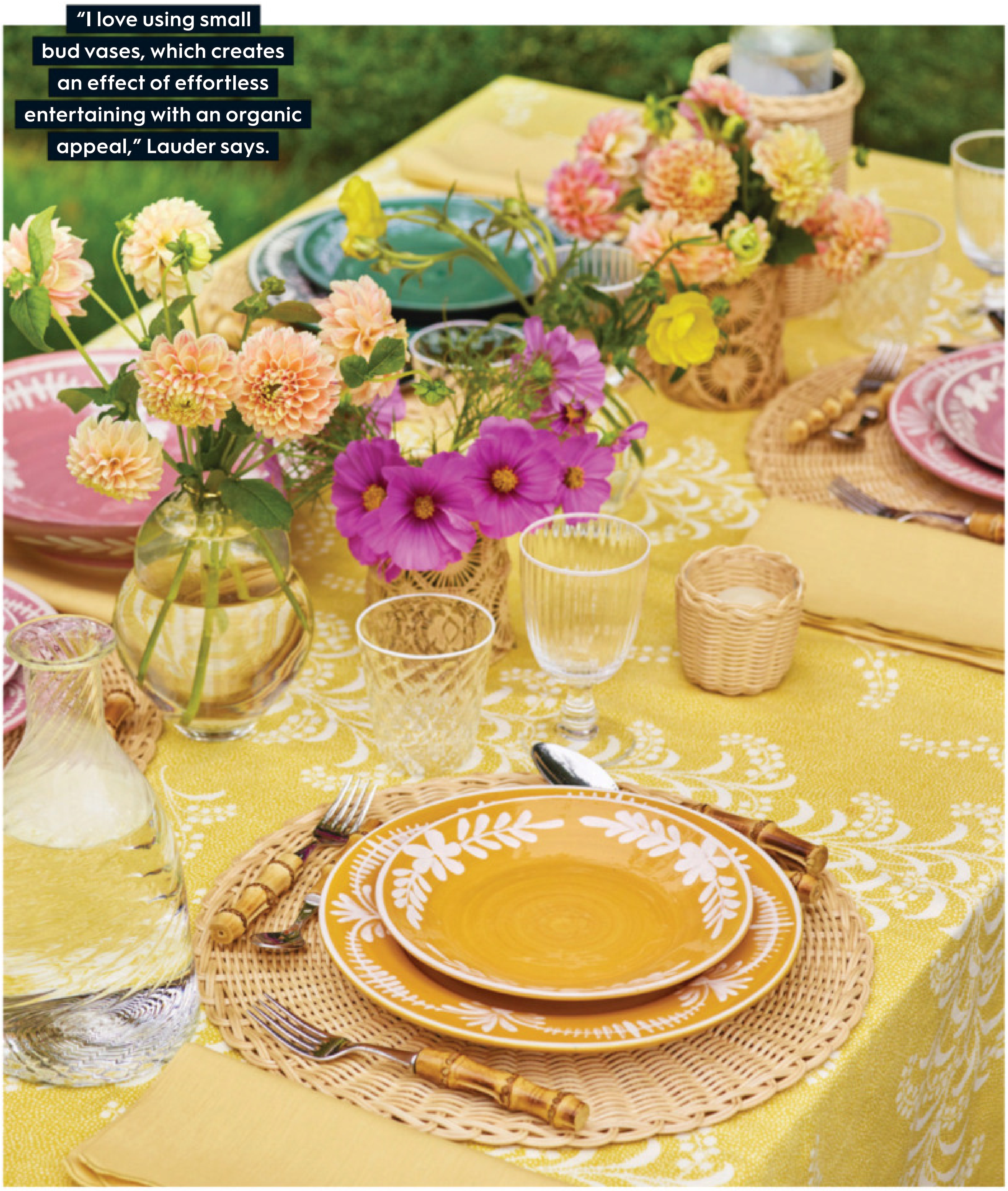


Set to DELIGHT

We're longing for a seat at this enchanting *outdoor table,* where the mix of garden colors, natural materials, and flowers feels like an invitation to linger.

by CATHERINE HONG *photos* MARK LUND

The Dream List



"I love using small bud vases, which creates an effect of effortless entertaining with an organic appeal," Lauder says.

1 FLOWER POWER

Many outdoor tables are long and narrow, and multiple small bouquets fill them out beautifully. The trick to making it easy is to group bunches of the same flowers together. Just clip and place them loosely in vases—no need for accent flowers or filler greenery. "Keep flowers below chin height to ensure easy conversation," Lauder advises.

2 NATURAL ELEMENTS

To harmonize with the setting and help cut fussiness, Lauder layered natural materials, including wicker chargers, bamboo-handle flatware, and raffia-wrapped vases, into this table design, featuring wares from her home collection, AERIN. "I love their airy texture, particularly in summer," she says. Look for rattan accents at thrift shops for additional charm.

3 COLOR THEORY

Mixing plates in the same pattern but different colors adds playful sophistication to the table while maintaining its visual harmony. Here the yellow tablecloth, echoed in the dahlias and plates, serves as the anchor color, with touches of pink, green, and lavender creating depth. Clear glassware and vases let the palette shine. ■

Get the Look

Garden Party

Whether you're serving alfresco or in the AC, these picks are elegant *and* affordable.

PAINTED PLATES
Art for the table. Salad Plates, from $30;
helenitahome.com

RATTAN PLACE MAT
A contrast to delicate plates. Fiber Loop, $6;
worldmarket.com

BAMBOO FLATWARE
This Cambridge set relaxes any table. $34/set of 20;
birchlane.com

COTTON NAPKINS
Sunny yellow is summer's neutral. Betty Eyelet, $80/set of four;
shopbluepheasant.com

PHOTOS (TABLE): REPRINTED FROM © *AERIN LAUDER: LIVING WITH FLOWERS*, RIZZOLI NEW YORK, 2025

BUYING INFORMATION: *BHG.com/Resources*

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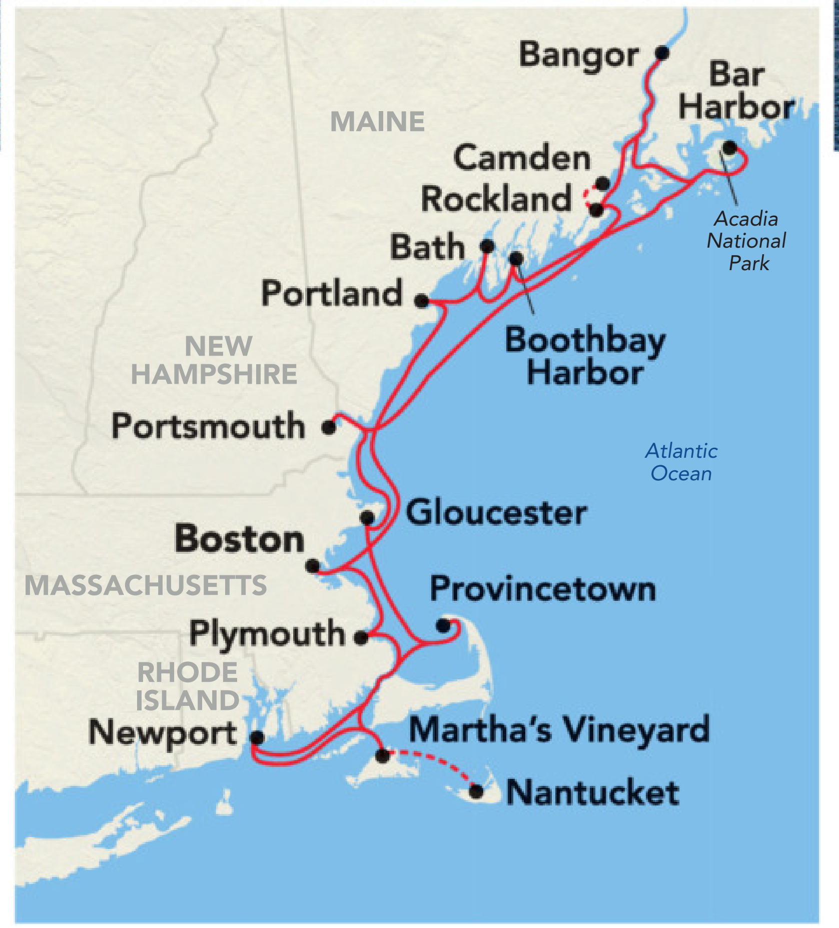
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SPOTTED, LOVED, SAVED

Iconic Hellerware

Colorful, stackable, durable, and instantly recognizable—these humble dishes from the 1960s have major staying power.

You've probably seen it in vintage shops or your cool aunt's kitchen, or at major modern retailers. This stackable melamine dishware was introduced in 1964 and won its Italian creators—husband-and-wife architect/designer team Lella and Massimo Vignelli—the prestigious Compasso d'Oro award for industrial design. But the pieces fell out of production by the end of the '60s, and that's where the Heller name comes in. Designer Alan Heller spotted the dishes in an exhibit and tracked down the Vignellis to reintroduce the line as the first product from his new company. Now commonly known as Hellerware, it's been a mod staple ever since. ■

A small lip on the bottom holds the straight-sided pieces in tall, tidy columns to maximize storage space. →

Max Dinnerware, from $60 for set of 6; *hellerfurniture.com*

PHOTO: COURTESY OF HELLER

by LAUREN BENGTSON

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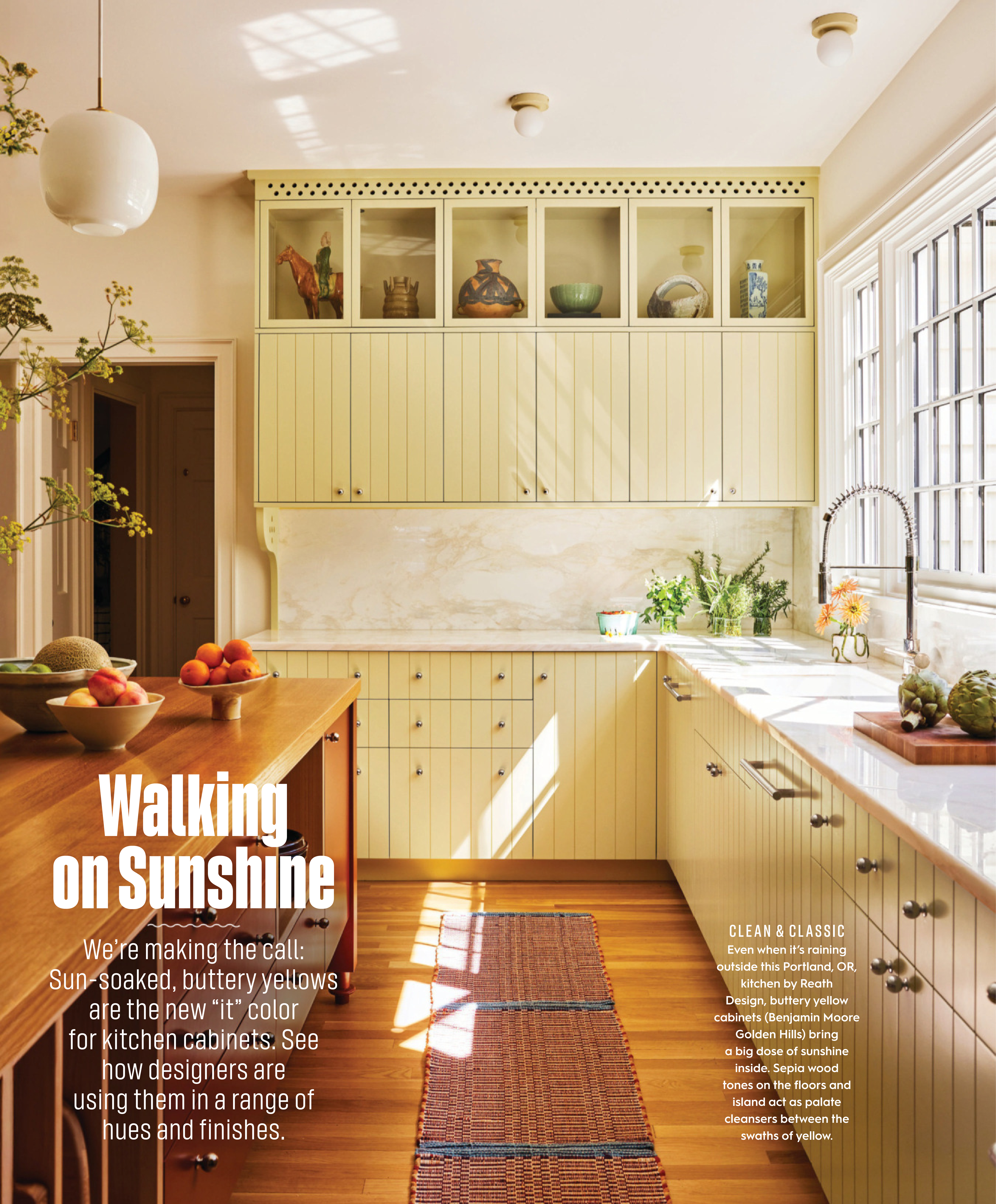
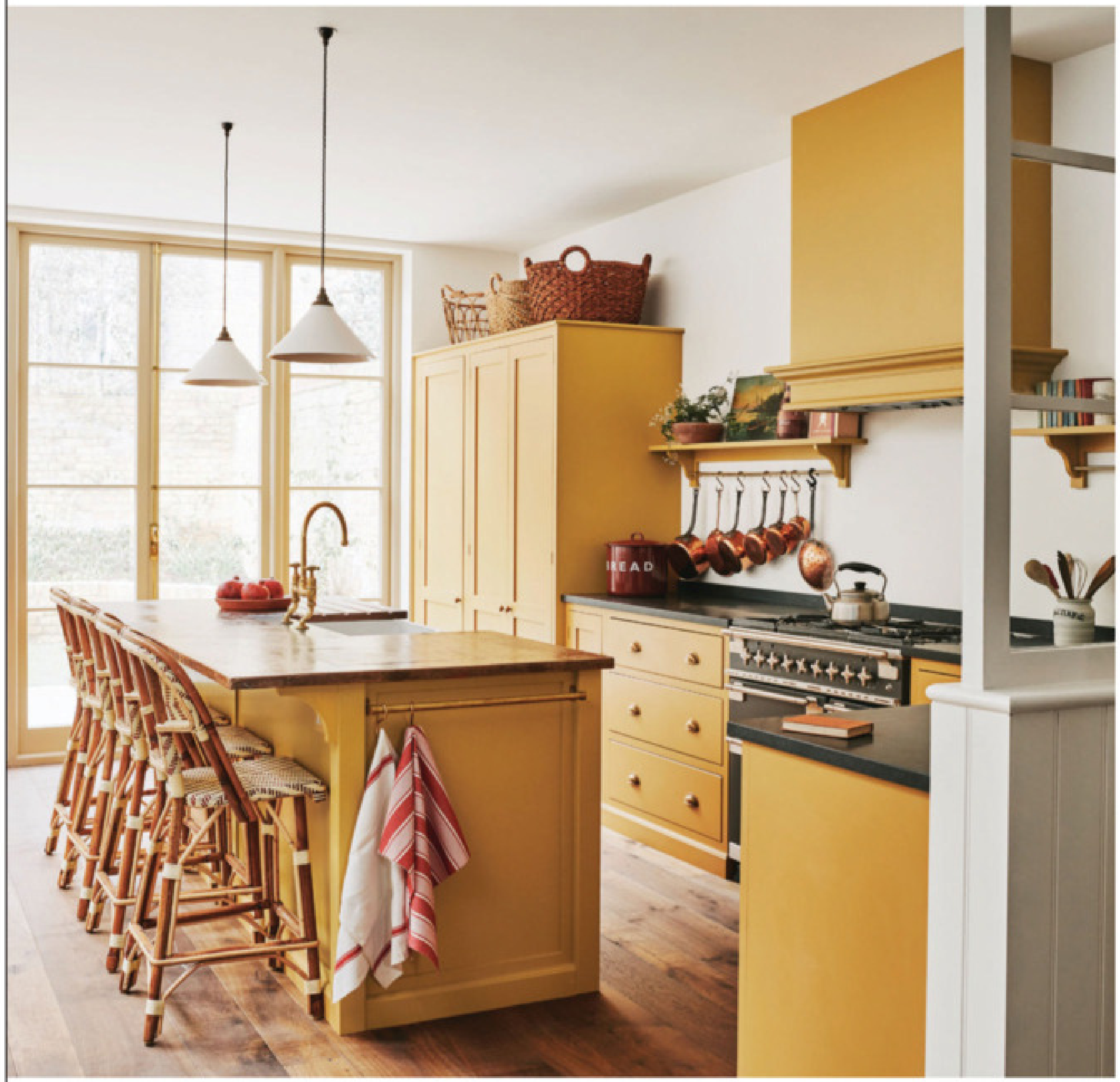


Walking on Sunshine

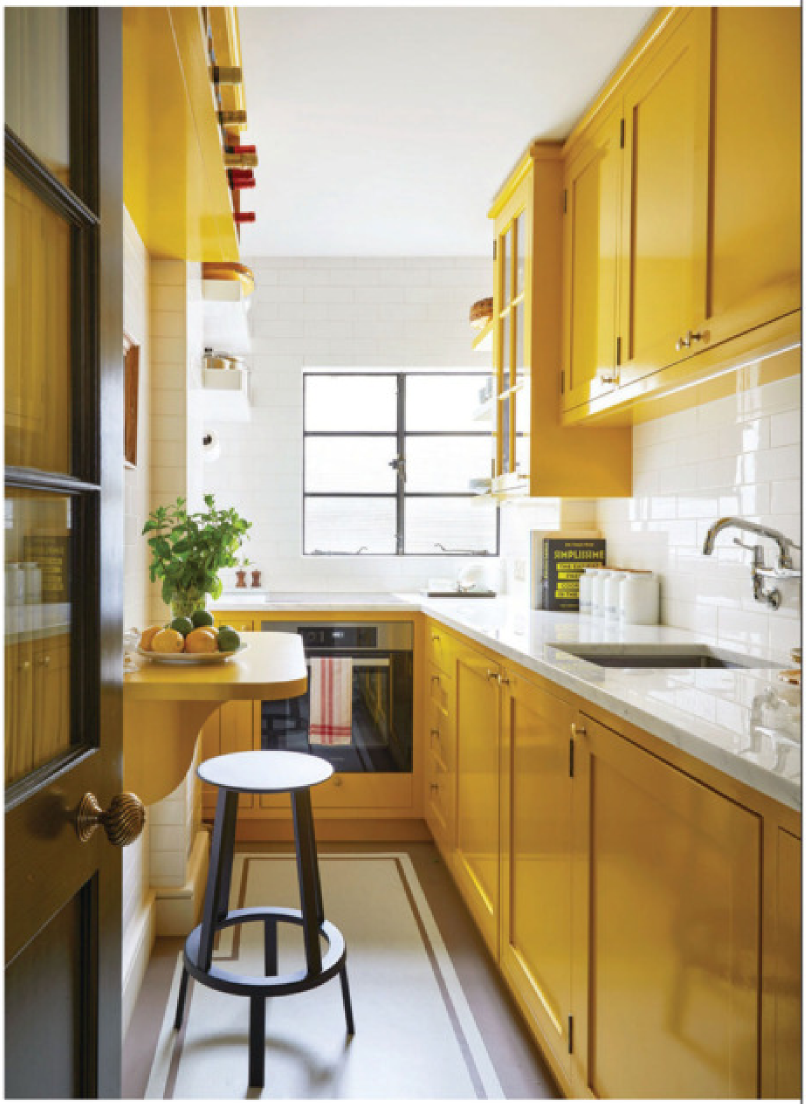
We're making the call: Sun-soaked, buttery yellows are the new "it" color for kitchen cabinets. See how designers are using them in a range of hues and finishes.

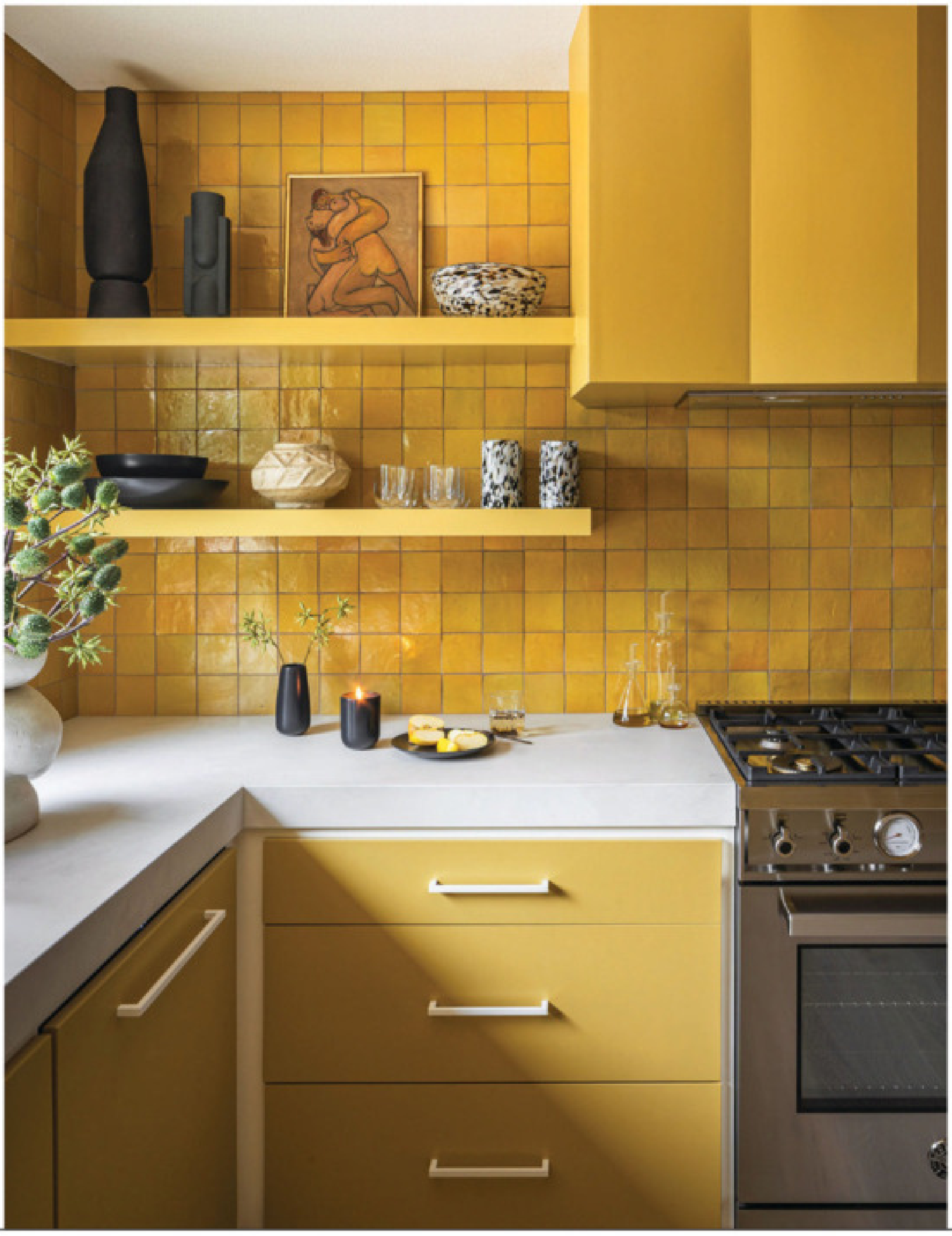
CLEAN & CLASSIC Even when it's raining outside this Portland, OR, kitchen by Reath Design, buttery yellow cabinets (Benjamin Moore Golden Hills) bring a big dose of sunshine inside. Sepia wood tones on the floors and island act as palate cleansers between the swaths of yellow.



SHAKER SIMPLICITY

The warmth of mustard yellow envelops this London kitchen. Interior designer Natasha Quick paired the deVOL Scullery Yellow cabinetry with dark wood and black countertops, creating a cozy, utilitarian feel.





MIXED MODERN

This dynamic kitchen by Hommeboys Interiors is drenched in yellow hues; textural differences create interest. Sleek, flat-panel cabinets (painted in Dylan by Portola Paints) contrast with the irregular zellige tile backsplash. A faceted range hood adds a sculptural note.

TRAD WITH A TWIST

Interior designer Veere Grenney's petite London kitchen, *above,* features glossy cabinets in a strong, saturated yellow (Gamboge by Paint & Paper Library). The high-shine finish is both durable and reflective, bringing a bit of glow to this galley layout. ■

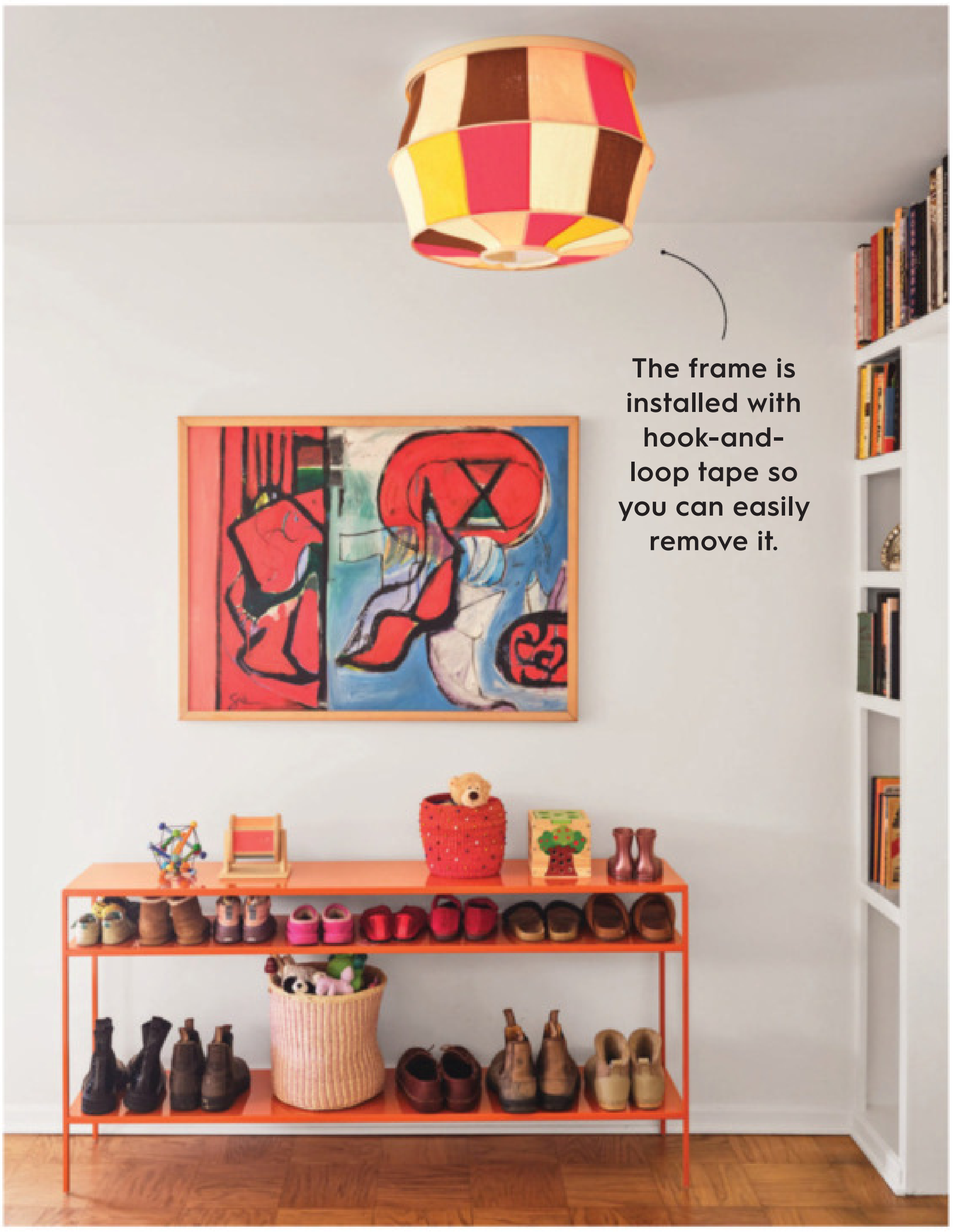
PHOTOS: (LEFT) LAURE JOLIET; CUSTOM CABINETRY: REDDING CUSTOM BUILDING, *REDDINGCB.COM*; (RIGHT, TOP) CHRISTOPHER HORWOOD, (RIGHT, BOTTOM) ADAM POTTS, (FAR RIGHT) FRANCESCO LAGNESE

by LAUREN BENGTSON

Cheerie Lane
POPCORN PODS
VARIETY PACK
BUTTER

Popcorn Party

Who doesn't love old-fashioned stove-popped popcorn? Iowa-based Cheerie Lane has come up with a clever way to package heirloom kernels and cacao butter in a cute cob-shaped pod that takes the guesswork out of the stove-top method. Just drop the pod into a pot, cover with a lid, and let it pop. They offer various flavors, and there's a popcorn-of-the-month club too. *cheerielanepopcorn.com*



The frame is installed with hook-and-loop tape so you can easily remove it.

Genius!

Lighting Hack

You know those boring domed overhead lights that probably came with your house or apartment? The ones with a certain shape and a rather, ahem, colorful nickname? Well, now you can cover them up without an electrician or even a second pair of hands. Tulip Shades offers an instant-style, renter-friendly makeover that takes about 5 minutes to install. Shades are available in two shapes (a drum and the Gem, *above*) and 17 fabrics, and fasten around your existing light. $139 to $180; *tulipshades.com*

Get Outside

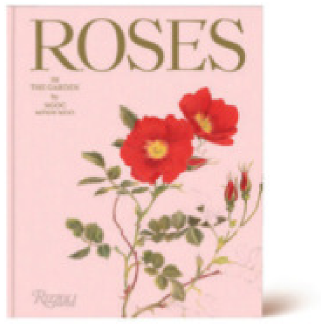
Backyard Glow-Up

It's summer and you want to be outside late. Light up the night with these convenient portable lanterns. They're solar-powered, lightweight, collapsible, and water-resistant. Some can even charge your phone or float in the pool.

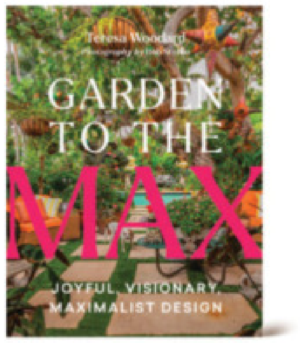
SolarPuff lanterns come in warm, bright, or color-changing light. The ones shown here are $34 each, but there's also a mini version for $22; *solight-design.com*

Books to Dig Into

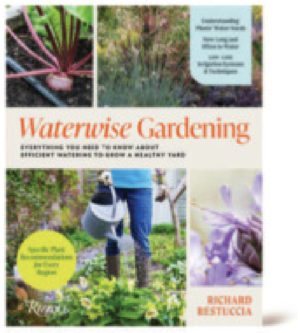
With garden season in full swing, we're finding fresh inspiration in these new books.



ROSES IN THE GARDEN
Stunning photos of world-famous rose gardens, plus intriguing history behind the beloved flower. *rizzoliusa.com*



GARDEN TO THE MAX
A celebration of gardeners around the country taking a more-is-more approach to planting. *hachette bookgroup.com*



WATERWISE GARDENING
A timely, information-dense guide to making smart use of water and creating a resilient garden. *rizzoliusa.com*

PHOTO: (LIGHTING) MADELINE TOLLE

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†Study was performed with the outside US version of the FreeStyle Libre 2 system. Data is applicable to FreeStyle Libre 3 system, as feature sets are similar.
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§Patients must meet Medicare eligibility coverage criteria.

References:
1. Leelarathna, Lalantha, et al. "Intermittently Scanned Continuous Glucose Monitoring for Type 1 Diabetes." *New England Journal of Medicine* 387, no. 16 (2022): 1477-1487. https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmoa2205650.
2. Evans, Mark, Zoë Welsh, and Alexander Seibold. "Reductions in HbA1c with Flash Glucose Monitoring Are Sustained for Up to 24 Months: a Meta-analysis of 75 Real-World Observational Studies." *Diabetes Therapy* 13, no. 6 (2022): 1175-1185. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13300-022-01253-9.
3. Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L33822, Glucose Monitors, https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?LCDId=33822.

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PHOTOS: MICHAEL ANTHONY

Chef Dawn Burrell's

Juneteenth Jubilee

Houston chef Dawn Burrell's annual ticketed dinner (June 20 this year) is a celebration of freedom and an opportunity for the *Top Chef* alumna to highlight the work of other Black chefs. "My motivation is to continue to raise awareness about Black history and to offer a place for Black culinarians to shine." Can't make it to Houston? We snagged Dawn's recipe for Hibiscus-Watermelon Coolers, her take on the traditional red drink served for Juneteenth, *page 93.* ■

BHG COLOR STARS CLASS OF 2025

Meet this year's honorees—the designers and creatives who give us the inspiration and the know-how to travel over the rainbow and embrace color in all its gradations. Follow their advice for bringing the full spectrum to your world, and you'll soon agree, there's no place like home.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF VERSACE

by ELENI GAGE *produced by* MONIKA EYERS

Known for her fearless use of color, interior designer *Sasha Bikoff* wants you to surround yourself with colors you love. "If it makes you happy, you should go for it."

a rainbow of hues

SASHA BIKOFF

@sashabikoff

With a background in fine arts, this New York designer takes inspiration from her travels, nature, artwork, and anything else that moves her to create exuberant yet sophisticated spaces.

Q What's the secret to combining kaleidoscopic colors?

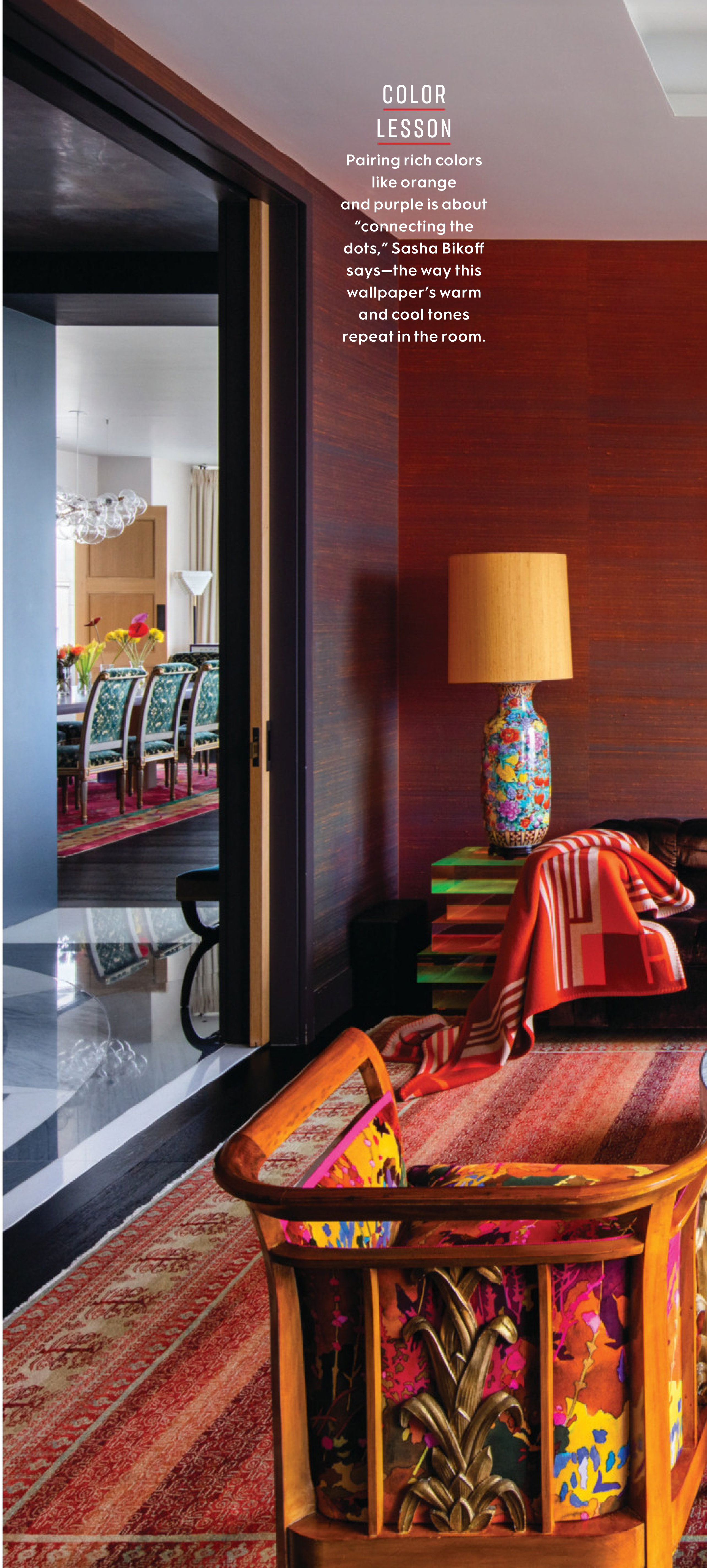
A In order to choose bold colors from the beginning, you need an inspiration. A lot of times the bold colors and the combination are already right in front of you—for instance, in a carpet, painting, tapestry, or printed fabric. One client was really inspired by their garden. I said, "Let's formulate a color palette that's like a bouquet." Each room ended up being inspired by a different flower.

Q What's the easiest way to add color to a room?

A Through the carpet or rug. It's really easy to find an area rug that's colorful, doesn't necessarily break the bank, is pretty easy to install and ship, and covers a lot of area.

Q Are there unexpected ways you like to use color?

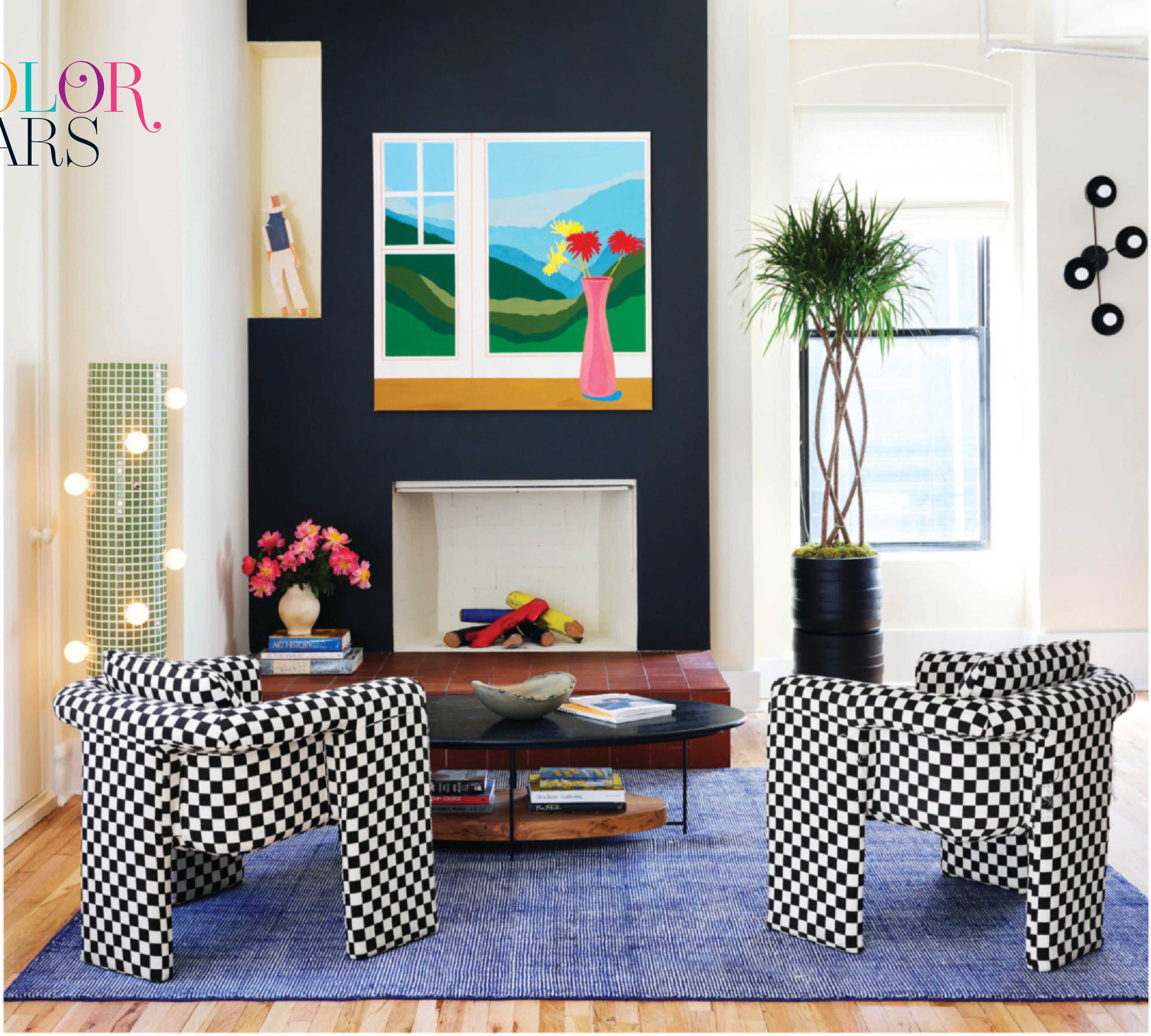
A There are all these small, intimate, private moments within a house where you can add color and you can get that "ooh, aah" moment when you're living within the space. That could be a powder room, it could be a closet, it could be inside shelves or inside cabinets. I did a project where the kitchen was all white oak and the walls were cream, but you opened up the pantry door and the whole pantry was painted tangerine.



COLOR LESSON

Pairing rich colors like orange and purple is about "connecting the dots," Sasha Bikoff says—the way this wallpaper's warm and cool tones repeat in the room.

PHOTOS: (BEDROOM) MANUEL RODRIGUEZ, (LIVING ROOM) NICK JOHNSON



clever contrasts

ALVIN WAYNE

@alvinwayne

This New York-based interior designer is known for creating spaces that are as bold and appealing as his own outgoing personality. Thoughtful repetition and use of neutrals keep his rooms calm and inviting.

Q What's your best color advice?

A Don't be afraid of color. A lot of people think, *Oh, the whole wall has to be this,* or *The whole home has to be that.* It doesn't. It's about how you use color. There are many ways to interject color in a space that are not overwhelming. You can use color as a neutral and play off that. And always balance it out with black or white.

Q Why black or white?

A When you add any shade of black or white, your eye has somewhere to land. It automatically grounds a space and doesn't feel like a circus.

Q How do you land on a palette?

A I ask clients about their lifestyle. If someone says, "I love to be on the beach," I pull colors based on that—maybe it's blues with tans, the color of sand. Next, it's about how they want to feel. If they say, "I want to feel energized," I go more saturated. If it's "I want it to be soothing," I go for more muted tones.

Q How do you thread those colors through a home?

A In the living room, those colors may be in the rug. In the bedroom, they may be the wall color. In the kitchen, maybe it's through accessories. When you walk through the space, you have that sense of continuity.

Q What's your go-to paint finish?

A I love an eggshell or a matte finish when it comes to using color, rather than a gloss, because color absorbs light. I don't want the paint to be reflective. I want you to see the true hue of the colors.

Q What are the easiest ways to add color to a room?

A Accessories, flowers, and artwork. You can be flexible with them.

PHOTOS: (ROOM) DAVID LAND/OTTO, (PORTRAIT) HOSHI JOELL

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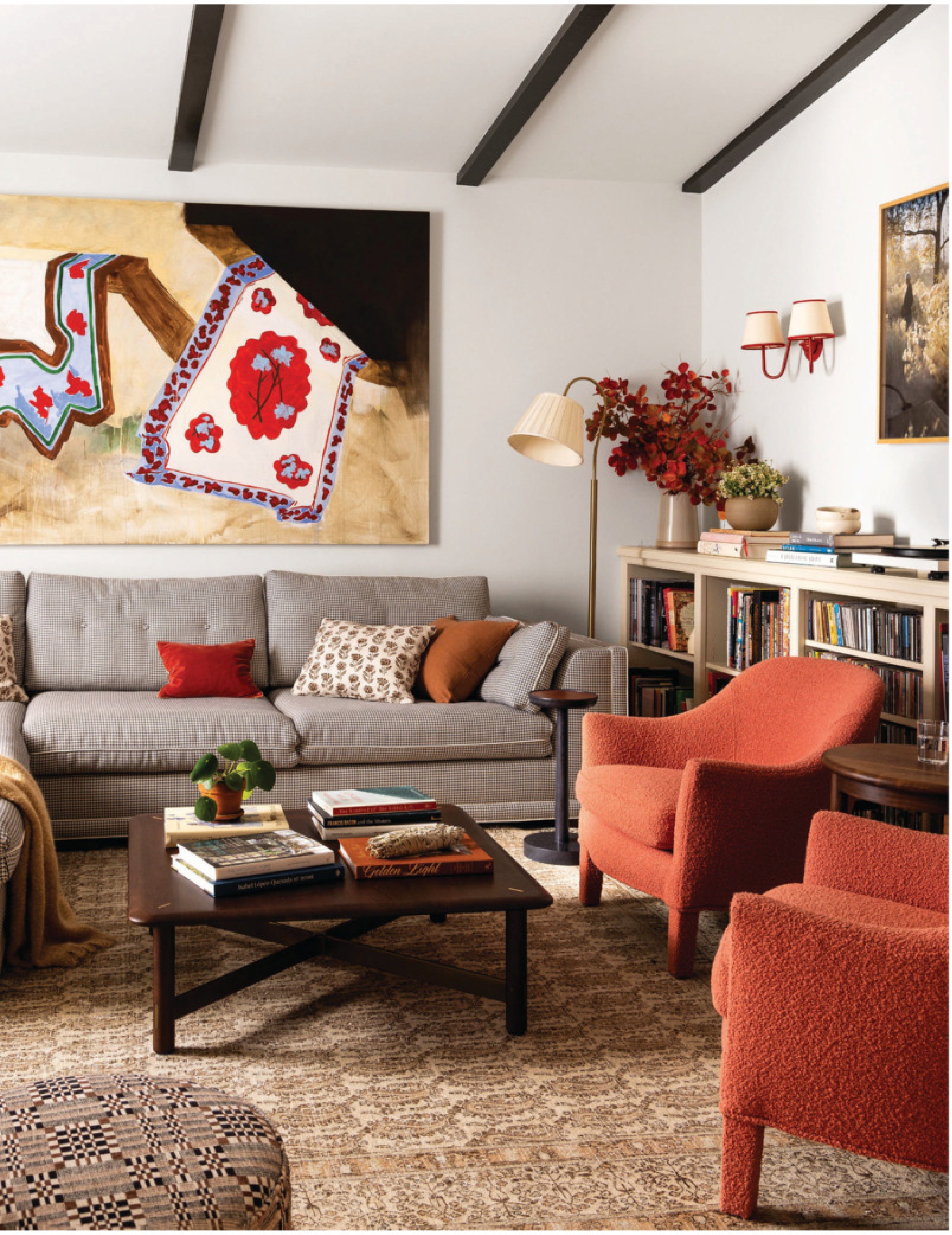


"I CONSIDER CERTAIN COLORS NEUTRALS AS WELL. COLORS THAT ARE MORE MUDDY OR KIND OF TONED DOWN, THEY'RE EASIER TO USE THAN PRIMARY COLORS." —LYNN KLOYTHANOMSUP, *interior designer*

muddy hues

LANDED INTERIORS

@landedinteriors

Lynn Kloythanomsup of Landed Interiors, which has studios in Berkeley, CA, and New York City, is all about that base—color. Known for her nostalgic aesthetic, Kloythanomsup keeps things cohesive by combining hues that have a common muted undertone.

Q What's your color philosophy?

A I am attracted to muddy or dusty colors, things that are not as bright or intense. It may be an intense yellow, but it has a kind of dirtiness to it. Like a pink would become a dusty rose. They're easier to use together if they all have this ruddy base. The nice thing is that they all look worn a little bit, so they just look good next to each other.

Q How do you harmonize colors in a home?

A The goal is that there's a thread that runs through. I talk about undertones because a blue can be more purple or can lean more green; a teal is very different than a cornflower blue or a navy blue. If we're picking a bunch of blues and our palette has a green undertone, then that helps eliminate colors that don't have that base color.

Q How do you approach white?

A We're always going to use color. Even if we do white, there is usually a background base color to that. It could be a pink white; it could be a green white or yellowish white. We can go subtle, but there's still going to be color.

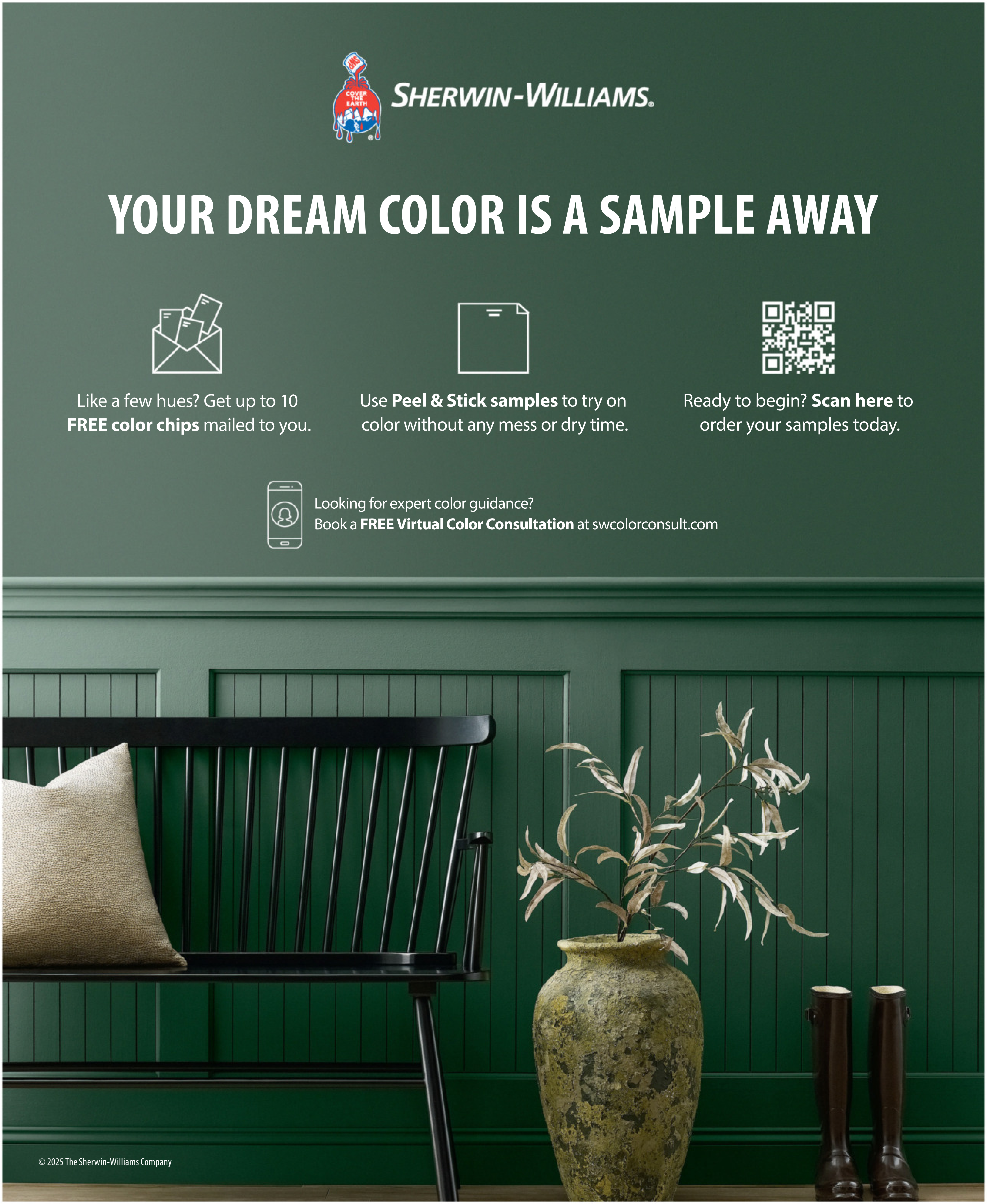
Q Quickest ways to add color?

A Pillows, definitely. And we love to bring in artwork. That can be a nice jumping-off point for bringing in even more color. We generally start with artwork early in the process because it can set different directions for the palette.

Q Favorite place to use color?

A Definitely trim and millwork. If you don't want to paint your walls, it's a great way to bring in color without as much labor.

PHOTOS: (ROOM) HARIS KENJAR, (PORTRAIT) BRETT WOOD



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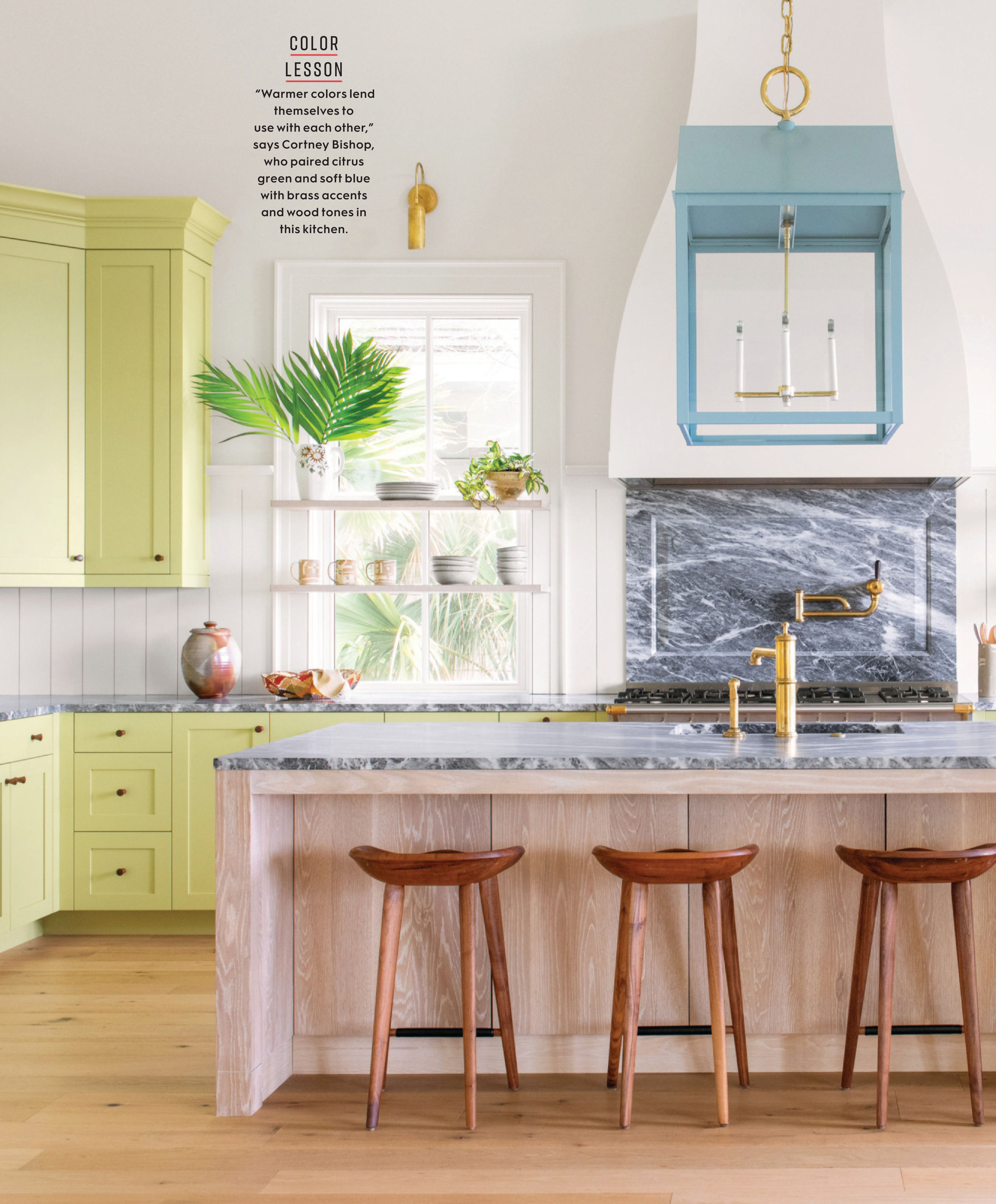
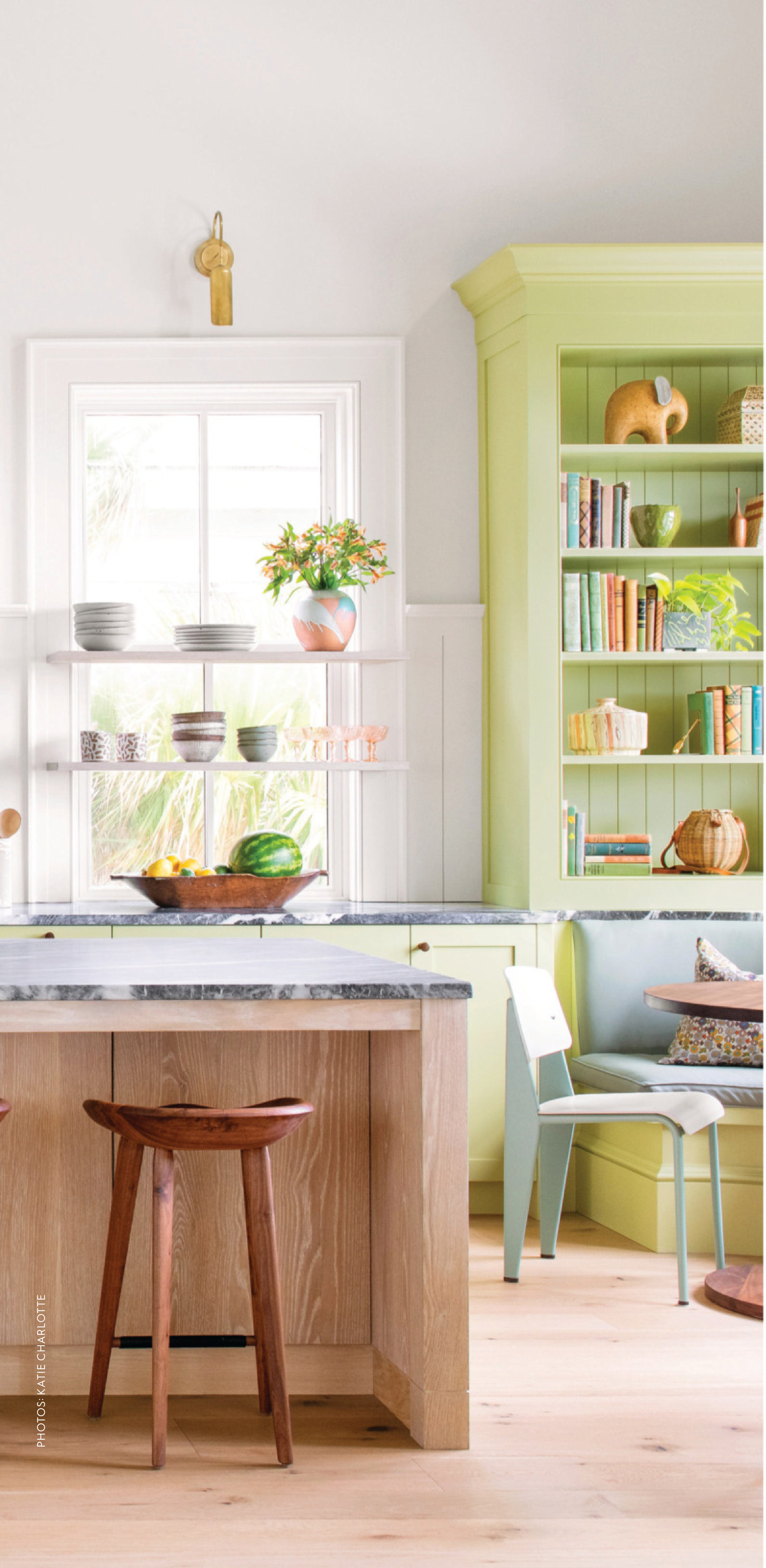


COLOR LESSON

"Warmer colors lend themselves to use with each other," says Cortney Bishop, who paired citrus green and soft blue with brass accents and wood tones in this kitchen.



PHOTOS: KATIE CHARLOTTE

coastal pastels

CORTNEY BISHOP

@cortneybishopdesign

This Charleston, SC-based designer draws color inspiration from the natural environment. But that doesn't mean her contemporary coastal decor is all sky blue and sand-dune tan. Her modern, organic approach leans into nature's nuances, from seafoam greens to terra-cotta reds.

Q What's the secret to making a room work with the view out a window?

A Where I'm incorporating environmental views, I choose colors that complement that environment and avoid colors that might distract from it.

Q How do you flow those colors through a house?

A My approach is tonal. I start with a neutral wall color that I use as my foundation throughout the house, then choose two or three accent colors that play off the environment, the view, and also play within the organic materials of the home. I use those tones on cabinetry, interior doors, and accenting trim details in a room.

Q Color-myth busted?

A People think when the whole house is creams and beige it will feel serene and organized, but the reality is that it can feel depressed. The biggest gratification I received recently was, "Wow, you can really brighten up the day when you put color into play!"

Q How should we pair paint and wallpaper?

A I would encourage people to pull color out of the wallpaper and apply it to the interior door, trim, window trim, and ceiling. Really wrap that room, give it that punch; it really does make a difference.

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SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.

TRENDSETTING COLORS

Every year, Sherwin-Williams dives into the color trends of tomorrow with its iconic **Colormix Trend Forecast**. This year's collection, Capsules, features 48 shades divided into four palettes—Chrysalis, Paradox, Wellspring, and Kindred. **Sherwin-Williams Director of Color Marketing, Sue Wadden**, gives expert advice on how to bring each palette to life at home.

Grounded
SW 6089

Mindful Gray
SW 7016

chrysalis

SET AN INTENTION

Conjuring the transformative energy of growth and change, the name nods to the moment just before a butterfly spreads its wings. Taking cues from nature, Chrysalis encompasses elemental neutrals for intentional living with soothing grays, warm browns, and poetic earth tones. These introspective hues invite you to muse about fresh beginnings and dream of the future.

Sue's tips for using Chrysalis:
Turn a bedroom into a sleep sanctuary or create a restorative nook.

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Alabaster
SW 7008
Talipot Palm
SW 6726
Cascades
SW 7623
ameublement

paradox

CONQUER CONVENTION

Tap into your boundless curiosity with Paradox, a capsule playing with contrasts. Whirring between free-spirited and pragmatic, this dopamine-drenched palette empowers you to push the boundaries of your imagination and turn your wildest dreams into reality. Unexpected pairings, like electric brights and grounding neutrals, play surprisingly well together, inspiring you to rethink what is possible. It's a palette comprised of shades that are decidedly of the moment yet timeless in their appeal.

Sue's tips for using Paradox:
Create energy with a dynamic accent wall, or add cheerful pops of whimsy to any space.

Euphoric Lilac
SW 6835
Dragon Fruit
SW 6855
Alabaster
SW 7008
art

Tres Naturale
SW 9101

wellspring

UNLEASH CREATIVITY

Made up of colors that connect back to the land and evoke a sense of craftsmanship, Wellspring represents a profound respect for artistry and attention to detail. Through mystical blues and compelling chromas, these hues celebrate the creative process—from honing a unique vision to bringing it to life in full color. Sue's favorite palette from the 2025 collection, Wellspring moves seamlessly between past and present, global and local, and inspires an ethos of repurpose and preservation.

Sue's tips for using Wellspring:
Infuse a contemporary dining room with heritage-inspired hues, or finesse a home office with a sophisticated aesthetic.

Outerspace
SW 6251
Upward
SW 6239

Redend Point
SW 9081

Creamy
SW 7012
Icy Lemonade
SW 1667

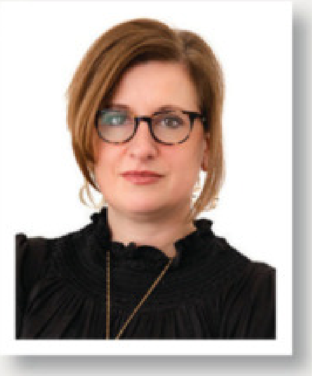
kindred

FOSTER CONNECTIONS

Whether it's infusing your kitchen with a sense of joy or imbuing a living room with warmth and conviviality, Kindred speaks to those moments of togetherness that make you feel most at home. A diverse array of warm-hearted colors has been handpicked to reflect the spirit of inviting in positivity, nurturing communal wellbeing, and welcoming others. From reddish undertones and rosy hues to inky blues and slate grays, the harmonious tones deftly contrast and complement each other, widening your horizons.

Sue's tips for using Kindred:
Turn a sunny kitchen or entryway into an inviting space for shared moments.

Due to the printing process, actual paint colors may vary.



BRING THE CAPSULES HOME

"To try forecast colors in your home, start small with an accent wall or a smaller room, and use color samples to test colors in different lighting throughout the day."

–Sue Wadden, Director of Color Marketing, Sherwin-Williams

Scan to get FREE color chips of Wellspring—Sue's favorite palette from the Colormix Forecast.

earthy neutrals

DREW MICHAEL SCOTT

@lonefoxhome

He calls his brand Lone Fox Home, but Drew Michael Scott is all about colors playing together—especially layers of inviting neutrals punctuated with contrasts.

Q What's your approach to neutrals?

A I lean into more warm tones, and I definitely like contrast. I love mixing black into a lot of my designs. I like how that edgy, industrial kind of touch adds to a space, even if it has a really "pretty" base.

Q How do you make neutrals feel inviting?

A Playing around with different textures and scales of prints and patterns. If you have a large-scale rug, add smaller-scale patterned pillows on the couch. It's still neutral, but it adds interest. Little details, like striped piping on a neutral chair, are also a nice way to make a space feel intriguing.

Q Any tips for choosing paint?

A Test out different shades—there are so many options. I always suggest getting one a little bit warmer and one a little bit darker.

Q Easy nonpaint color hacks?

A Pick a pattern, then incorporate some colors from it in a chair or some other upholstery. If you're going to do all light, accent the room with a few dark vases that act as a focal point.

Q Best color decision?

A I painted the ceiling in my bedroom ocher, and it always feels really warm and like the sun is in the room, which I love.

Q Calculated risk?

A I love color-drenching—doing a full space in a certain color and varying the tones of that color. I just made a room in my house into a makeshift movie theater, and I did a color-drenched burgundy tone in there. Consider doing this in a fun color in a room that's behind closed doors—you can close it off when you aren't using it.

PHOTOS: (ROOM) MICHAEL CLIFFORD/TRUNK ARCHIVE; (PORTRAIT) ETHAN GASKILL

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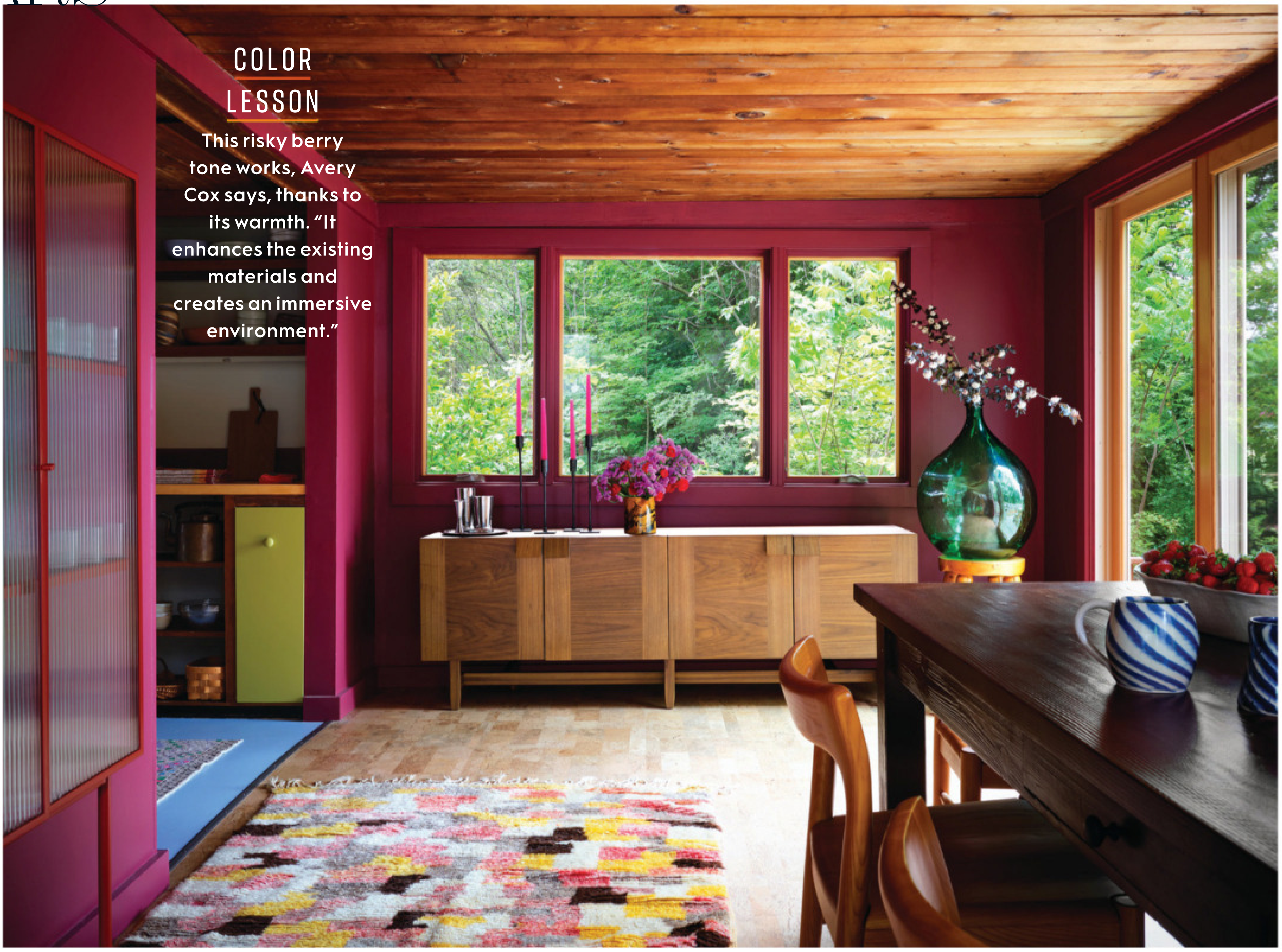


COLOR LESSON

This risky berry tone works, Avery Cox says, thanks to its warmth. "It enhances the existing materials and creates an immersive environment."

enveloping color

AVERY COX

@averycoxdesign

This Austin-based designer is not afraid to go big on color, whether she's washing a room in a single hue or pairing complementary colors.

Q What's your best color advice?

A I talk a lot about changing the white balance of a room. When we wash a room in a color, we are just establishing a new neutral for the space. It doesn't feel as scary when you understand that color doesn't mean chaos. My best rooms go all in on color, from walls and trim to ceiling and millwork. This makes them feel immersive and otherworldly.

Q Where do you start with color?

A For me it is all about the architecture. Smaller rooms tend to work better in the darker hues, while larger airy rooms work better in lighter colors.

Q What's your secret weapon?

A Tonality. I love the look of an all-blue (or green or pink) room, and it's an easy way to start playing with color, choosing hues that are close to each other on the color wheel as opposed to jumping across it.

Q How do you keep colors flowing from room to room?

A Tonality helps there as well. For example, if I have hunter green walls in one room, a safe starting place for adjoining rooms would be a color that leans more olive or goes more toward blue, thus not straying too far from the source color on the color wheel.

Q Game changer?

A A lampshade is such a fun way to add that little dose of color that makes everything else sing. The default white shade can really mess with your palette.

Q Favorite color combo?

A Variations on red and green always feel earthy and classic, whether you go with rust and hunter or stay in the realm of verdigris and cherry.

PHOTOS: (PORTRAIT) NGOC MINH NGO, (ROOM) LINDSAY BROWN

metallics

TINA RAMCHANDANI

@tinaramchandani

An expert in working with metallics, this New York-based designer is known for going for the glow, creating warm, modern spaces that offer subtle shine. It's an approach she calls Soulful Minimalism.

Q What's the key to layering metallics?

A Focus on whether the tones feel compatible. For instance, adding a bright yellow-tone brass into a space dominated by cooler metals could feel out of place. A muted finish won't overpower the space. The key is to make sure the tones speak to each other rather than compete.

Q What role does texture play?

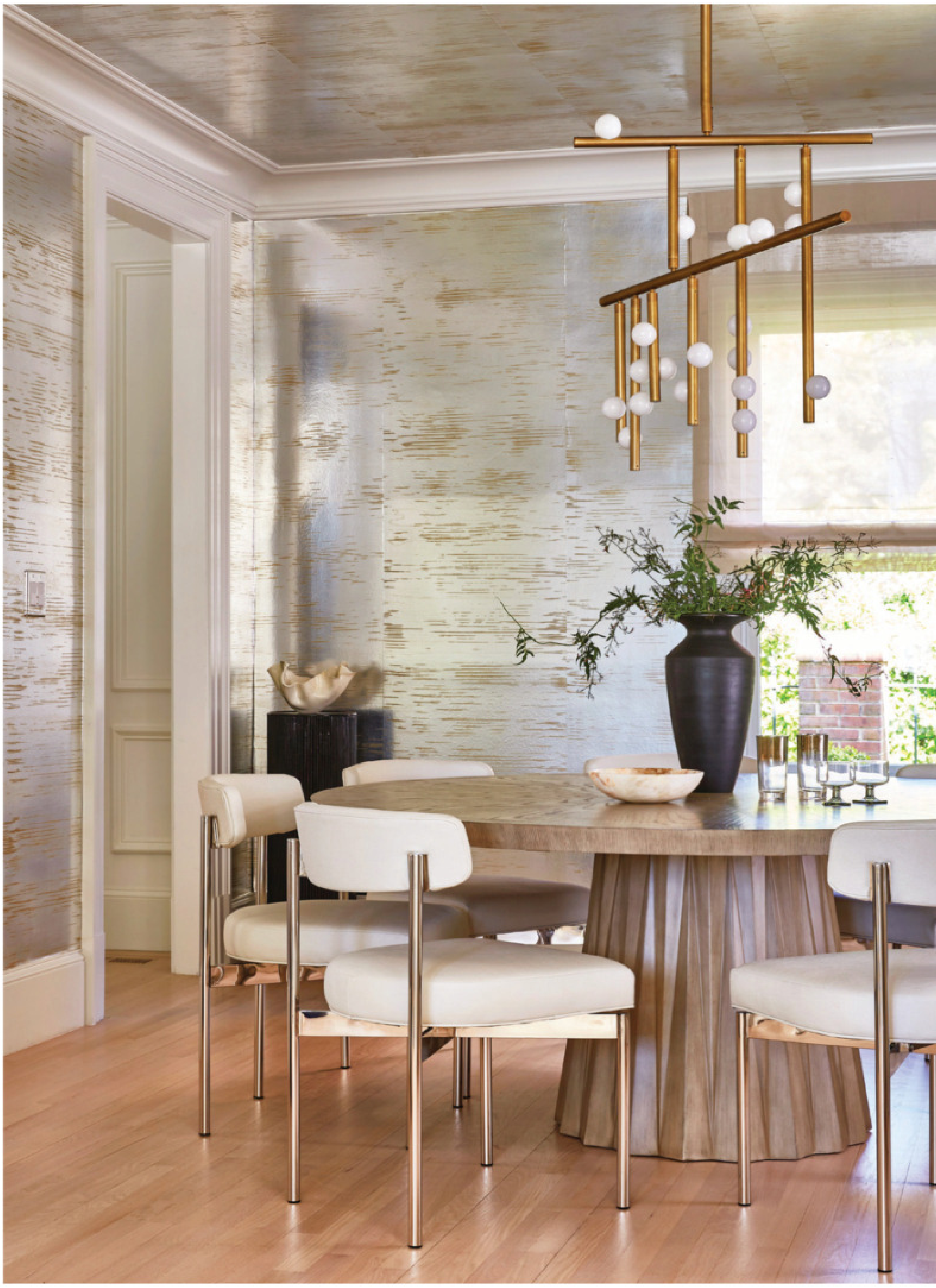
A It's often what makes a room feel rich and dimensional, especially with a limited palette. If everything in the room shares the same texture, even in a monochromatic or metallic scheme, the space can fall flat. Mixing materials and varying finishes—brushed, polished, antiqued—adds warmth and depth. That said, too many competing elements can become overwhelming. It's about achieving balance.

Q How else can you add a metallic glow to a room?

A Metallic wallpaper adds instant dimension and elegance. You can also incorporate metallic tones through picture frames, accessories on shelves and tables, or even textiles with metallic threads or subtle sheen. These elements can carry the same reflective, luminous quality as real metals and help layer in that richness without relying solely on hard materials.

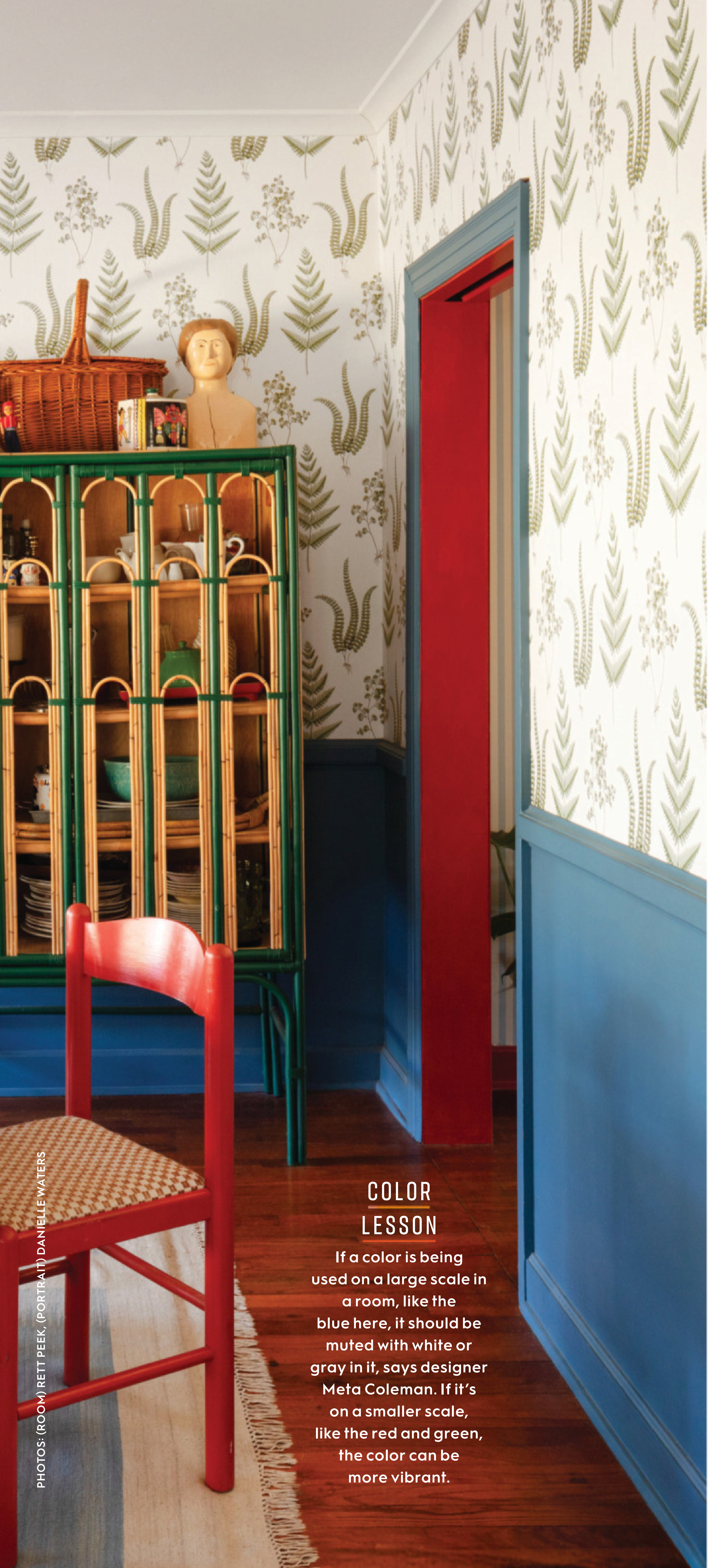
Q What was your most satisfying color makeover?

Refinishing furniture is one of my favorite things to do. You don't put it in a landfill; you get to save something.



"METALLICS ARE NEUTRAL BUT EXCITING. MUCH LIKE COLOR, YOU WANT TO ASK YOURSELF: ARE YOU GOING ALL IN? IS EVERYTHING GOING TO BE METALLIC OR JUST A POP?" —TINA RAMCHANDANI, *interior designer*

PHOTOS: JACOB SNAVELY



COLOR LESSON

If a color is being used on a large scale in a room, like the blue here, it should be muted with white or gray in it, says designer Meta Coleman. If it's on a smaller scale, like the red and green, the color can be more vibrant.

PHOTOS: (ROOM) RETT PEEK, (PORTRAIT) DANIELLE WATERS

artful primaries

META COLEMAN

*@metacoleman_*

Even when she's working in a new build, Meta Coleman's designs have a bit of a fairy-tale-cottage air. That's thanks to her love of folk art-inspired patterns as well as her sophisticated use of primary colors—with a verdant twist.

Q What are your favorite colors to work with?

A I love blue. It works in almost any room. It can be so calming but also energetic. You can use it in accessories or for a complete room. I love blue and green together, blue and red. I love yellow too. I tend to like primary colors, but I also like to do unexpected colors.

Q What's your advice for curating a palette?

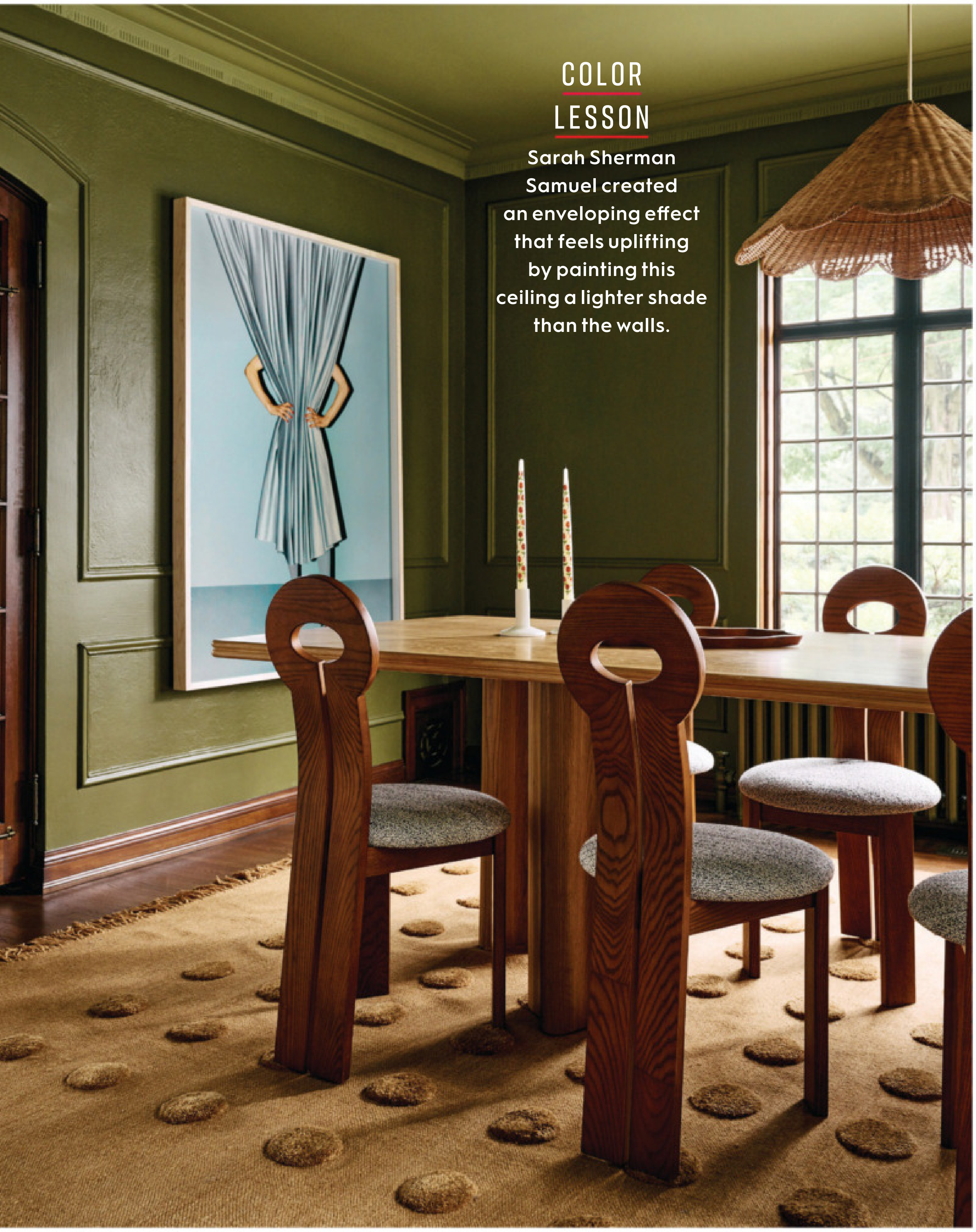
A I tell people to start with three colors. First a main color. Usually, tonally it shouldn't be that dominant (for example, calming blue). Then your secondary color should be a color that works with the primary (for example, red). Then I do a third color, which usually is a complement to the first and second colors (for example, green). You can bring out the best of a color if you show something that contrasts or complements it.

Q How do you choose the right paint color?

A I gather two or three samples of variations of the same color. Maybe it's cornflower blue or there's a little more Yves Klein blue in it. I paint those swatches and look at them in the space—you might have more green reflecting from trees through your windows that's changing the color. The same applies to testing whites.

Q What if you don't want to paint an entire room?

A I've been working a lot with stencils, doing stencils on the ceilings or above the baseboard. A decorative paint element is a fun way to bring in color and a little pattern.



COLOR LESSON

Sarah Sherman Samuel created an enveloping effect that feels uplifting by painting this ceiling a lighter shade than the walls.

> "PICTURE A HOME AS A WHOLE, LIKE A PAINTING: YOU CAN HAVE BRIGHT COLORS OVER HERE AND THEY STILL WORK WITH MUTED COLORS OVER THERE." —SARAH SHERMAN SAMUEL, *interior designer*

groovy greens

SARAH SHERMAN SAMUEL

@sarahshermansamuel

Taking inspiration from botanical tones, this Michigan-based designer creates rooms that range from cozy to grand.

Q Where do you find inspiration?

A I like color palettes that are nature-inspired. That's an easy way to create a palette. Then they kind of blend, mix and match, and go together well.

Q What's your favorite green?

A Greens are quite versatile. I like all shades, but I gravitate toward ones found in the landscapes that I've lived in. I love the sage green of California, eucalyptus greens, and the deeper, lush greens of tropical places like Miami.

Q What's your advice for the color cautious?

A The main rooms can be ivory or neutral, but we always push to have color in the powder room or where there's a cozy den or the kids rooms—have those be bright colors. Looking at a home as a whole story, I think it's important not to have every room hit the same note.

Q How do you keep neutrals interesting?

A You really have to lean in to different shades of neutrals and also rich textures in a variety of patterns. Maybe there's a smooth velvet or a chunky woven fabric, and even though the rug's one color, there's a pattern or texture change woven into it.

Q How do you choose the actual paint colors?

A First, narrow it down to five to 10 paint colors. Include shades that, in the store you might think, *This is too whatever*, but it might actually work in the space. Then pick out the color in your space using large swatches. Don't rely on photos—it's like buying makeup without knowing how it looks on your skin tone.

PHOTOS: (ROOM) DANIEL PETER, (PORTRAIT) MATTHEW WILLIAMS

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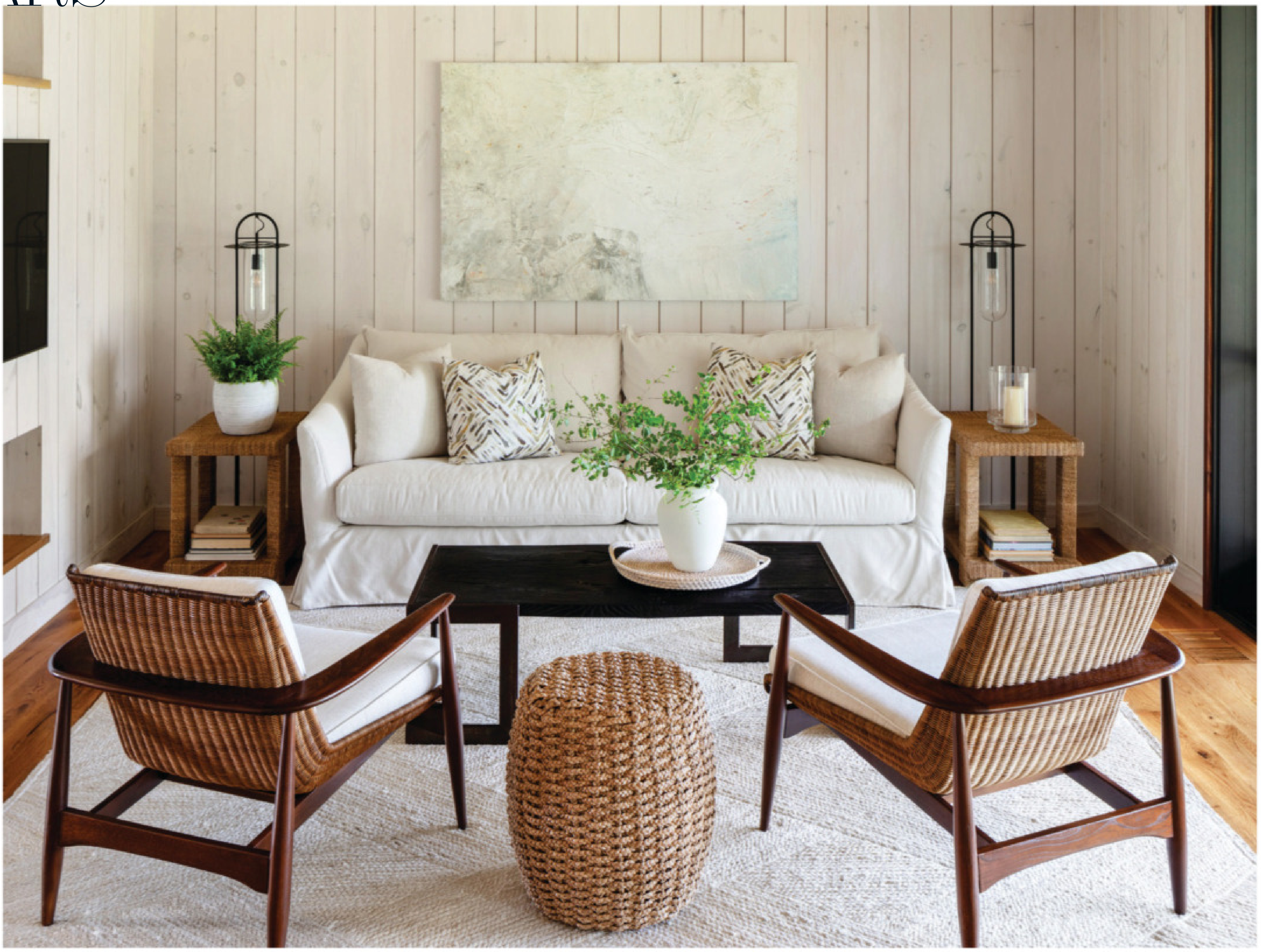

naturals + whites

LAURA HODGES

@laurahodgesstudio

Having visited more than 30 countries, this Baltimore- and Washington, D.C.-based designer is inspired by her travels and the natural world. Her multilayered interiors are filled with organic materials and palettes that nod to the seasons.

Q What inspires your color choices?

A I gravitate toward color palettes based on nature. In a house, I might say, these rooms reflect more summer and these are more fall. Summery palettes are light and fresh with saturated color. Fall has more muted tones, like terra-cottas and deeper tones of those summery colors.

Q How do you make a neutral palette inviting?

A It's important to have a lot of texture and interest that make you want to touch and feel things. It's this idea of biophilic design, an appreciation and love of nature. Maybe we do a shiplap wall or a beadboard and then texture in the fabrics as well, whether it's a corduroy or wool. Then the wood naturally warms it up because wood is a warmer texture than metal or stone—it's physically warmer to the touch.

Q Do you have any rules about decorating with wood?

A I'm not so interested in grayed-out woods because that's not really how they appear in nature. I prefer the more saturated, warmer tones of wood in a home, anywhere from a very soft saturation like a white oak through to a mahogany or walnut. I think that when you get such a nice range of wood tones, it tends to work with most colors.

Q What's the key to pairing wood with white?

A I tend not to go with cool stark whites. I go with a warmer white. Slightly warmer undertones are very complementary to us as people, but they're also complementary to wood tones.

PHOTOS: (PORTRAIT) TARA HOPE, (ROOM) JENNIFER HUGHES

WEDDING COLOR *of* THE YEAR

VERONA SUNSET

You are invited
to the wedding of
Margareth Anna Luchesi and William Patrick Ritch
Saturday May 2, 2027 5 PM
Giardino Giusti Verona, Italy
reception to follow
YOU ARE INVITED — TO THE WEDDING OF
06 ALAIA & QUINN 06
SATURDAY, MAY SIXTH
twenty-twenty seven
SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE WEDDING WEEKEND OF
Charlotte Wren
and
Brock Pham
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JUNE 19 - 20, 2027
GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT
formal invitation to follow
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TO
BROCK HENRY PHAM
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TWO THOUSAND TWENTY—SEVEN
AT SIX O'CLOCK
THE FIELD CLUB
GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT

Cockwise from top: Wedding Invitation: **Giardino** by Pati Cascino • Save the Date: **Racquet** by Megan Davis • Wedding Invitation: **Racquet** by Megan Davis • Wedding Invitation: **Alaia** by Jessie Renee.

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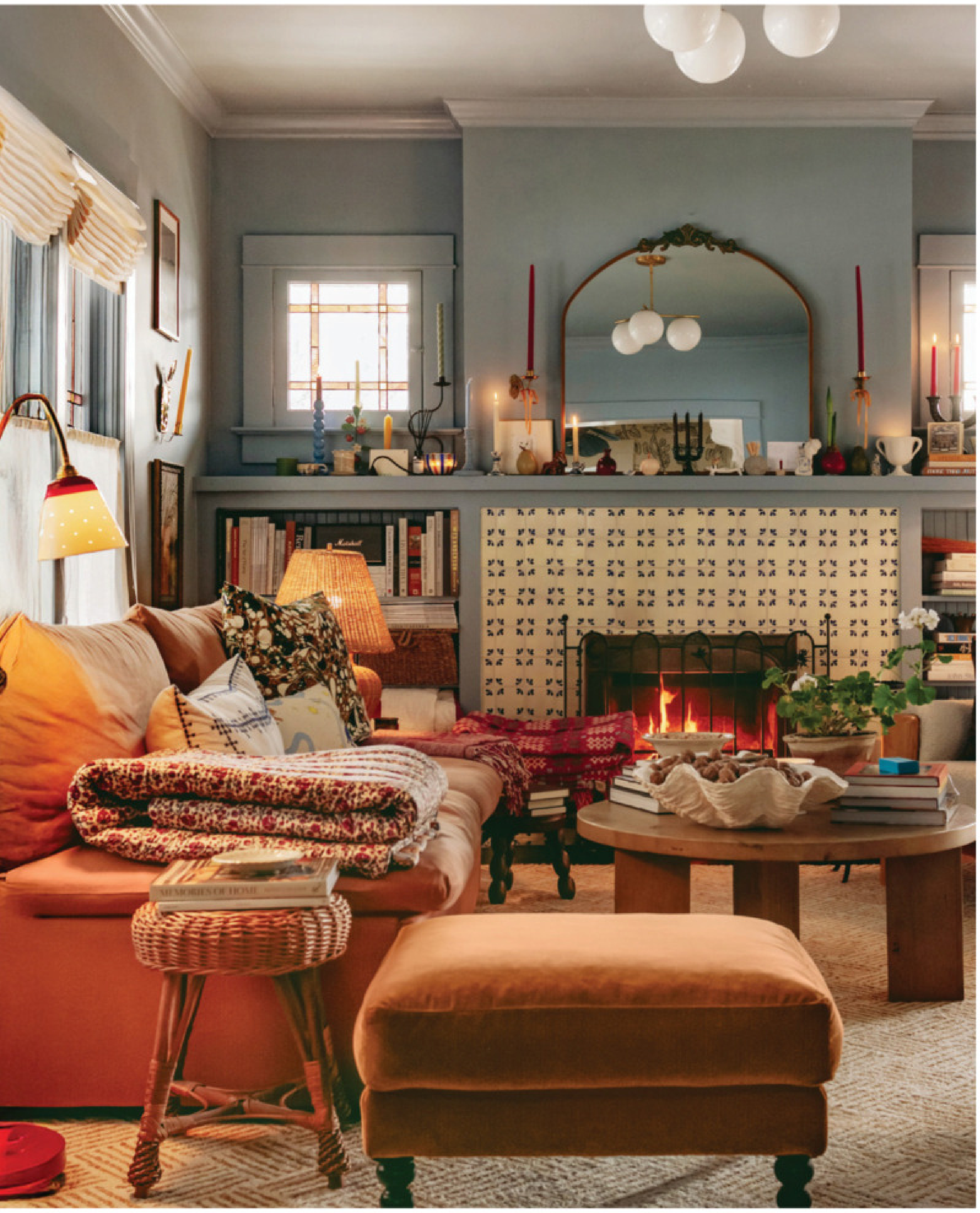
BHG COLOR STARS

RISING STAR

This year, we asked readers to vote on social media to name our first-ever Rising Color Star. And vote you did, for designer Sara Charlesworth. As @chalkwhitearrow, she chronicles the evolution of her family's charming home in Salt Lake City. "My aesthetic is layered, playful, a bit unpredictable. I'm influenced by historical interiors and a sort of storybook, whimsical feeling," she says.



nostalgic + cozy

SARA CHARLESWORTH

Q What is your color philosophy?

A I think that color should bring joy. A room should have depth, movement, a bit of unpredictability. Too much harmony can be dull; a little contrast or tension makes a space feel alive.

Q What color advice do you have for readers?

A I encourage clients to start with a color they naturally gravitate toward and build from there. And trust your instincts. Never try and force a color that you've seen someone else use or that you think you're supposed to use but you don't love, because then you'll want to change it.

Q Is there a way you use color that surprises people?

A My favorite right now is the ceiling. People often neglect the ceiling, and adding some color or even a pattern up there can create an enveloping, magical effect. In our dining room, we have this more neutral striped wallpaper, but then we have this soft, gray-blue color that goes all through the trim, the doorways, the ceiling trim. And we've added this sky blue ceiling to the top. It draws your eye up and just adds that bit of something.

Q How can you make sure the colors flow from room to room?

A A trick I use is ensuring there's at least one color that appears in multiple places, like a green in a patterned fabric echoed in a lampshade or a trim. You can have different tones of green, as long as those greens are complementing each other.

Q What paint finishes do you rely on?

A I generally like a more matte or eggshell finish for walls and ceilings and a more glossy finish on woodwork to add that pop of light.

Runners-Up

DIGITAL CREATOR Maitri Mody, @honeyidressedthepug

INTERIOR DESIGNER David Lucido, @dalucido

PHOTOS: SARA CHARLESWORTH

FIND THE DESIGNERS' TOP PAINT PICKS EXCLUSIVELY AT *BHG.com/ColorStars.*

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MEET OUR

Complementary Color Stars

Decorating isn't the only domain where color reigns. This year we expanded our honorees to include dynamic pros who confidently wield color—literally and figuratively—in other important areas of our creative lives. Because whether we're attracted to neon brights or rich neutrals, we all want to live in full color.

food

RICK MARTÍNEZ

A James Beard Award winner and best-selling cookbook author, chef Rick Martínez (@chefrickmartinez) lives on the Pacific coast of Mexico, where he cohosts a podcast, teaches cooking classes, films videos, and writes—including his latest cookbook, *Salsa Daddy (amazon.com)*—from his wildly colorful home (the kitchen is blue and pink). "These colors are energizing and engaging. When I enter my kitchen and I'm surrounded by color, I want to get cooking," he says, noting that colorful food has the same effect. "Cooking with color adds flavor, energy, and vibrancy to your plate. It enhances your mood; it excites you."

PHOTOS: (PORTRAIT) REN FULLER, (FOOD) ALEX LAU © 2025; REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM *SALSA DADDY: DIP YOUR WAY INTO MEXICAN COOKING* BY RICK MARTÍNEZ, COPYRIGHT © 2025. PUBLISHED BY CLARKSON POTTER PUBLISHERS, AN IMPRINT OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE.

BREAKFAST ON THE GO

1 ENSURE COMPLETE MILK CHOCOLATE SHAKE VS **1 BLUEBERRY MUFFIN***

1 ENSURE COMPLETE MILK CHOCOLATE SHAKE	1 BLUEBERRY MUFFIN*
30g PROTEIN	5g PROTEIN
25 VITAMINS& MINERALS	3 VITAMINS& MINERALS

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nutrition shake
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Complete, Balanced Nutrition®
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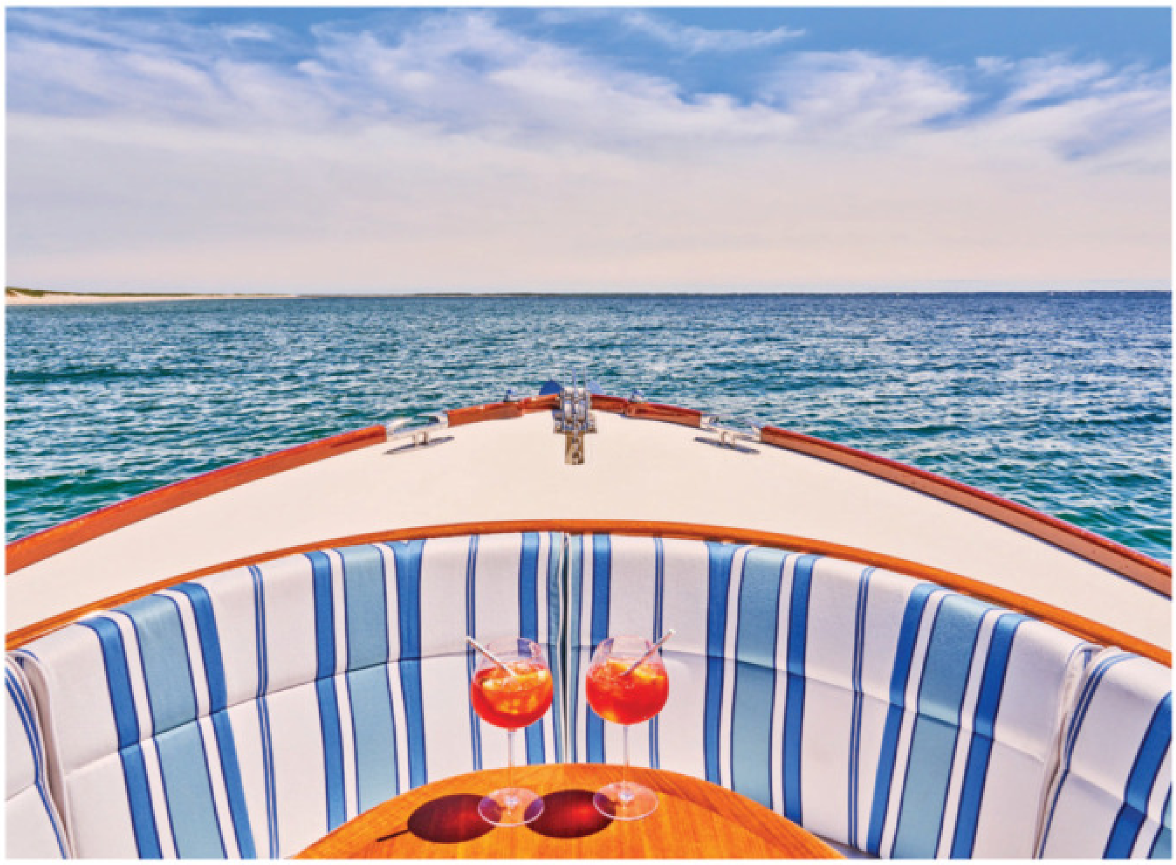

travel
GRAY MALIN

The sky is always blue in Gray Malin's fine art photographs of iconic destinations like Cape Cod or Capri—windows into a sun-kissed, carefree world where summer never ends. His colorful photos have also been known to kick-start entire decorating schemes. For example, his photo *Afternoon Cruise, Nantucket, above,* hangs in his kitchen, sparking a palette of blues and their complementary corals. Among the most colorful destinations he's photographed? "Palm Beach is a very colorful place. The palette there is a soft palm leaf green and corally beige, and some yellows and definitely pinks and blue," he says. Follow his adventures @graymalin.

fashion
JENNI KAYNE

The queen of California casual, fashion designer Jenni Kayne (@jennikayne) is known for effortlessly elegant styles in wearable neutrals. She glides through the world in understated tones of cream and beige, punctuated with colorful accents or unexpected accessories. "Texture and layering are key when working with neutrals," she says. "A neutral palette doesn't have to be flat—it's all about how you layer and mix materials." Some of her go-to ways to add interest include vintage silver jewelry and combining contrasting fabrics like silk and linen.

PHOTOS: (TOP ROW) GRAY MALIN, (BOTTOM ROW) BLISS BRAOUDAKIS

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EVERYTHING
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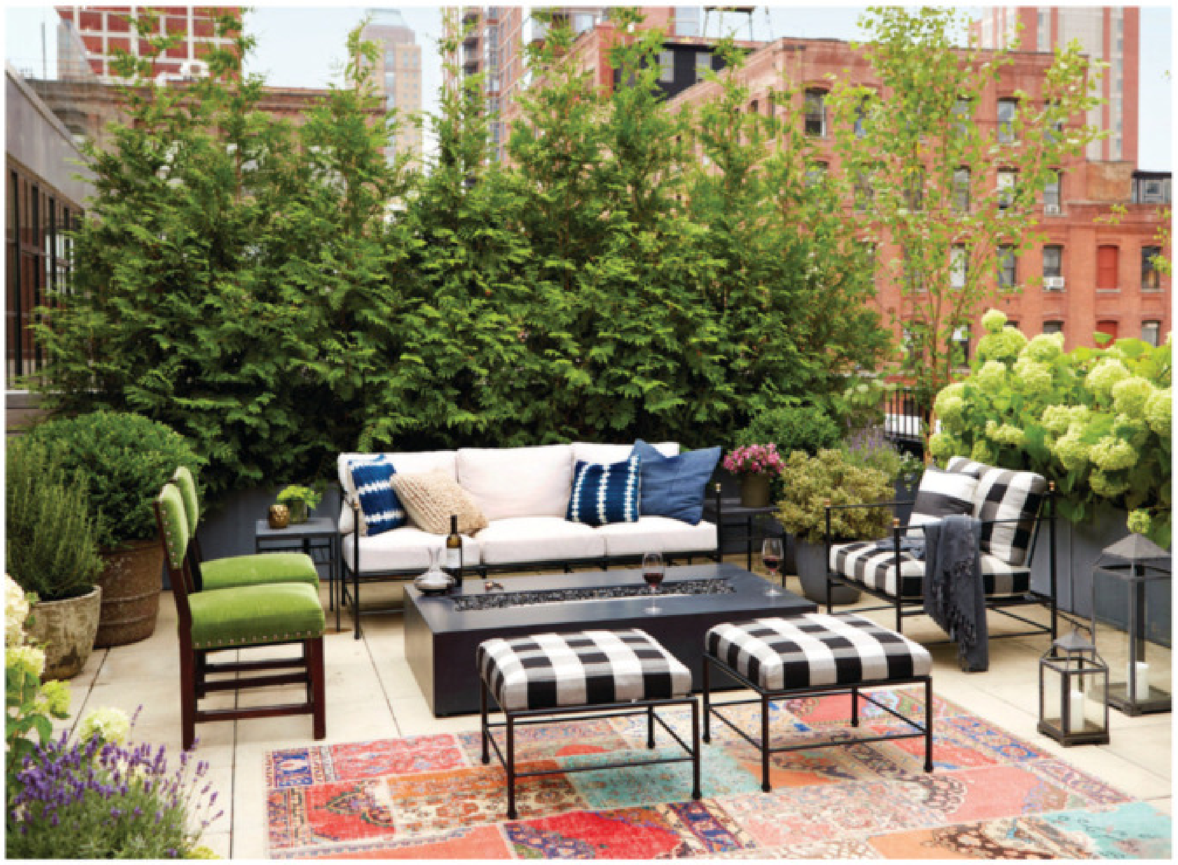
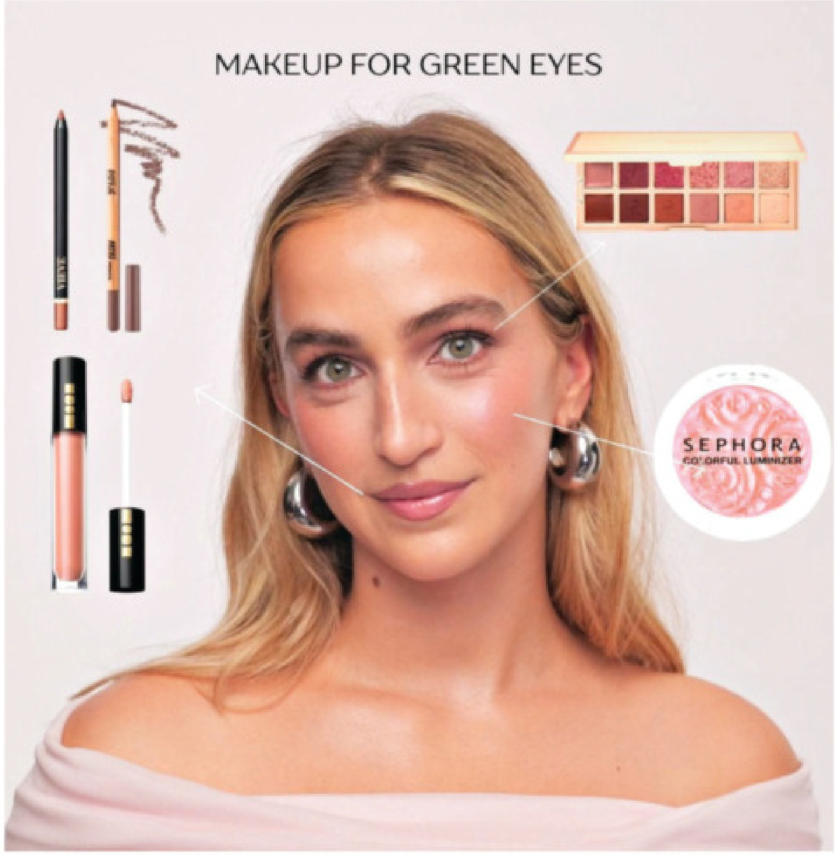


garden
MANSCAPERS

Whether they're working on a tiny city balcony or a sprawling yard, the principals of Manscapers (@manscapers; *from left:* Garrett Magee, Mel Brasier, and James DeSantis) use greenery as their base, bringing in accents of color through flowers and furniture. "Imagine your yard as a cocktail: You need a good base, but a little splash of something fun goes a long way," they say. "Combine plants with different leaf textures and colors—like the silver-blue of succulents and the rich green of hostas—for that wow factor without the chaos." Also, they say, opt for exterior decor colors that reflect your interior palette.

ASTERCL SSES
ented by MAK

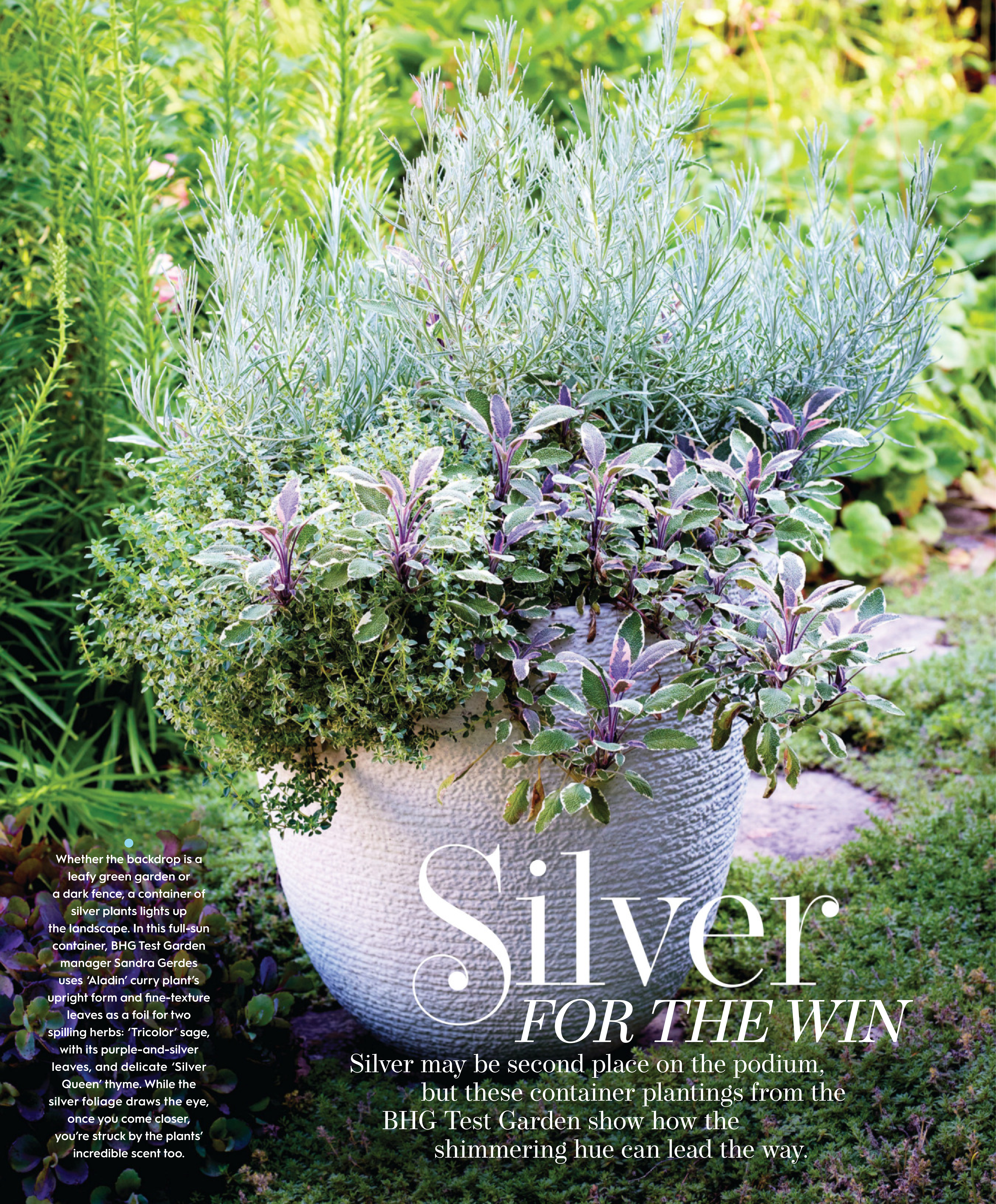


beauty
KELLI ANNE SEWELL

Beloved for her natural makeup looks and step-by-step videos explaining how to achieve them, makeup artist Kelli Anne Sewell (@makeupxka) captivates followers with her how-tos breaking down techniques like color correction and contouring. Her strategy is all about understanding the color wheel, which Sewell, *above left,* says is "a great way to neutralize and to bring certain colors and features out." Want to play up your eye color? Look across the color wheel for a flattering lid color. "For blue, the opposite color is orange," she says, pointing to "warm orangey browns" as an ideal choice. Green eyes? Cross to rosy hues. "It's an easy formula." ■

PHOTOS: (PORTRAIT, TOP ROW) KAI CAMERON, (GARDEN) DANE TASHIMA, (BOTTOM ROW) CAROLINE FISH/MAKEUP BY KELLI ANNE

FIND BONUS TIPS & TRICKS FROM THESE TASTEMAKERS EXCLUSIVELY AT *BHG.com/ColorStars*.



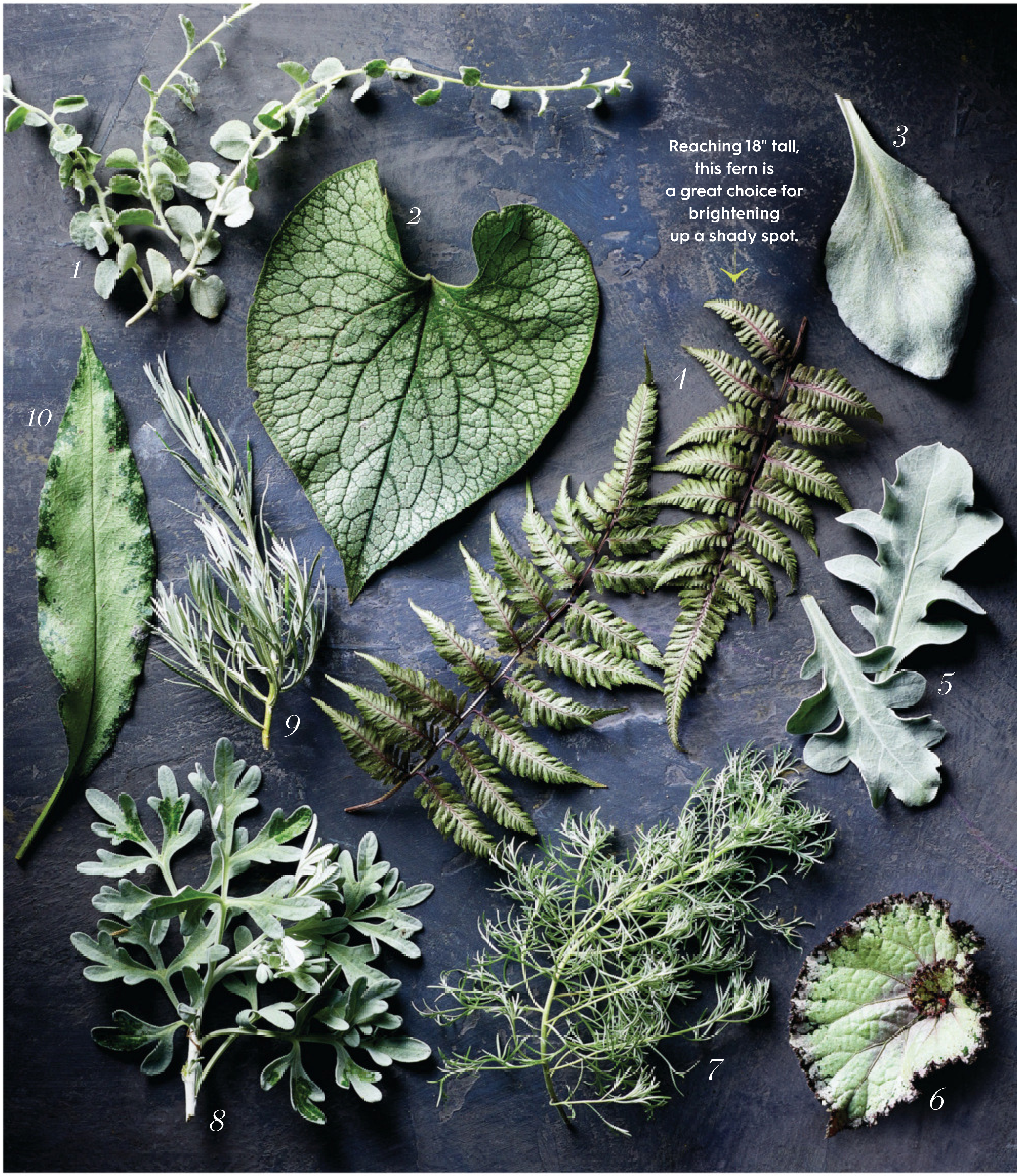
Silver FOR THE WIN

Silver may be second place on the podium, but these container plantings from the BHG Test Garden show how the shimmering hue can lead the way.

Whether the backdrop is a leafy green garden or a dark fence, a container of silver plants lights up the landscape. In this full-sun container, BHG Test Garden manager Sandra Gerdes uses 'Aladin' curry plant's upright form and fine-texture leaves as a foil for two spilling herbs: 'Tricolor' sage, with its purple-and-silver leaves, and delicate 'Silver Queen' thyme. While the silver foliage draws the eye, once you come closer, you're struck by the plants' incredible scent too.

EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED

Silver-leaf plants come in all sorts of forms, allowing you to make them the star or utilize them as an accent in a container or garden bed. Here are some of our favorite varieties for sun or shade.



Reaching 18" tall, this fern is a great choice for brightening up a shady spot.

1
LICORICE PLANT
Velvety yet tough with a mild anise fragrance.

2
'JACK OF DIAMONDS' BRUNNERA
Leaves grow up to 10 inches in a mounding habit; thrives in the shade.

3
'ANGEL WINGS' SENECIO
A perfect contrast plant with its large, soft, and silver-white foliage.

4
'PICTUM' JAPANESE PAINTED FERN
Dark ribs and silver fronds make a beautiful pairing.

5
'SILVER SWIRL' DUSTY MILLER
Drought-tolerant with wavy-edge leaves.

6
'JURASSIC JR. ARCTIC TWIST' REX BEGONIA
Iridescent leaves form a spiral at their base; keep out of direct sun.

7
'SILVER MOUND' ARTEMISIA
Forms a near-perfect mound of lacy foliage.

8
'MORI'S STRAIN' ARTEMISIA
The deeply serrated leaf shape is as appealing as the silver sheen.

9
'ALADIN' CURRY PLANT
Leaves have a similar fragrance to the spice (but shouldn't be used for cooking).

10
'SILVER BOUQUET' LUNGWORT
Mottled silver leaves accent clusters of pink and violet flowers come spring.

by MIKE IRVINE *photos* CARSON DOWNING *produced by* SANDRA GERDES

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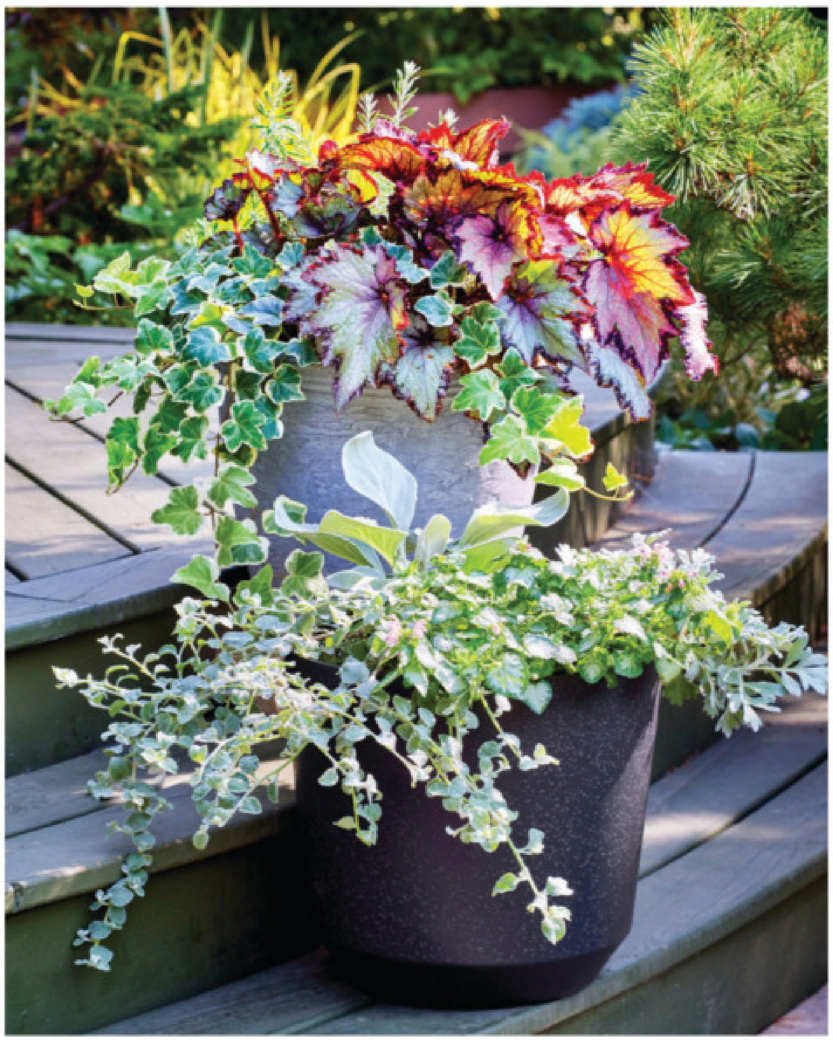
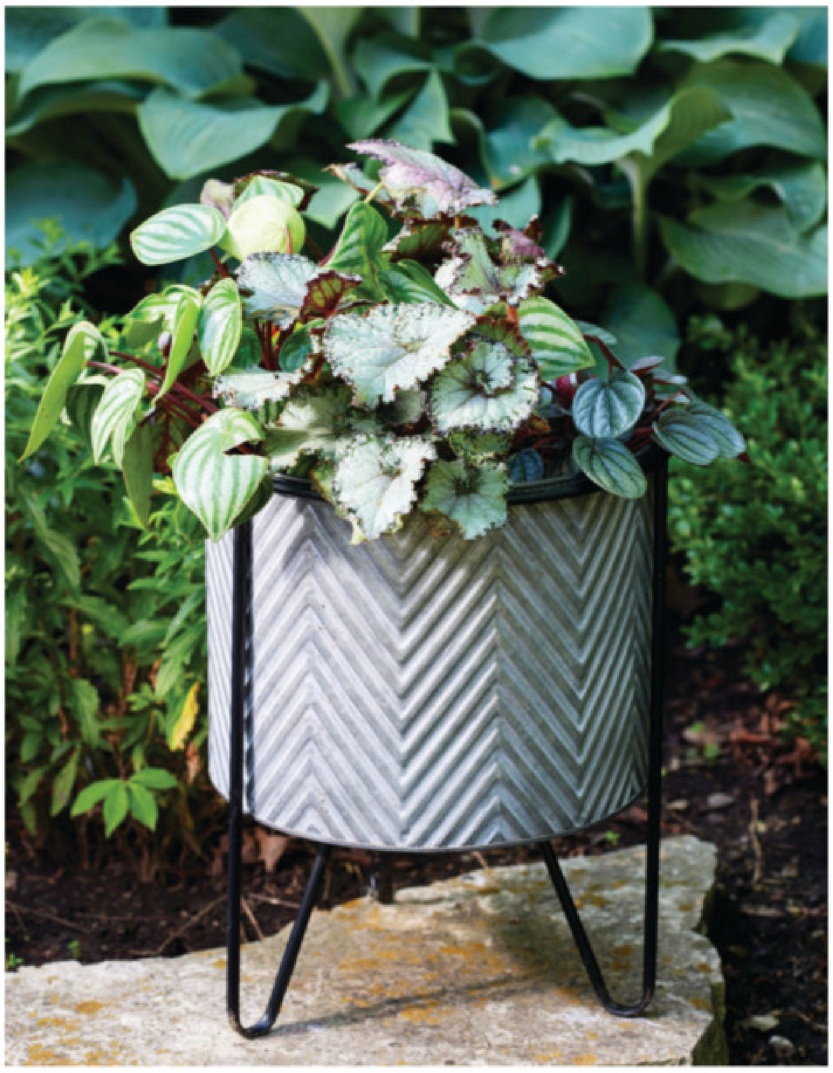
Aluminum Free Dry Solid
NET WT 2.4 OZ (68 g)
FOR BITS
* AI Generated

> “The way silver foliage reflects light is not only beautiful but also reduces evaporation and water loss, making the plants more drought-tolerant.”
>
> —SANDRA GERDES, *BHG Test Garden manager*



Gerdes shows off two sides to silver’s personality, *left.* The upper pot leans dramatic, thanks to the contrast of the scarlet-trim silver leaves of ‘Jurassic Dino Dragon Fruit’ rex begonia, which play off the variegated English ivy and shrubby everlasting. In the lower container, silver takes on a softer look—and feel—with the velvety leaves of licorice plant, ‘Angel Wings’ senecio, and ‘Mori’s Strain’ artemisia; dainty ‘Pink Chablis’ lamium flowers lend a touch of color. The top pot is best for shade, while the bottom one thrives in full sun.



Three patterns make this container, *left,* an especially graphic combo: The rind-like stripes of the aptly named watermelon peperomia, the tight spiral of ‘Jurassic Jr. Arctic Twist’ rex begonia, and the geometric chevron of the container itself. What ties them all together is the silver sheen that jumps from one pattern to the next. Place in part to full shade. ■

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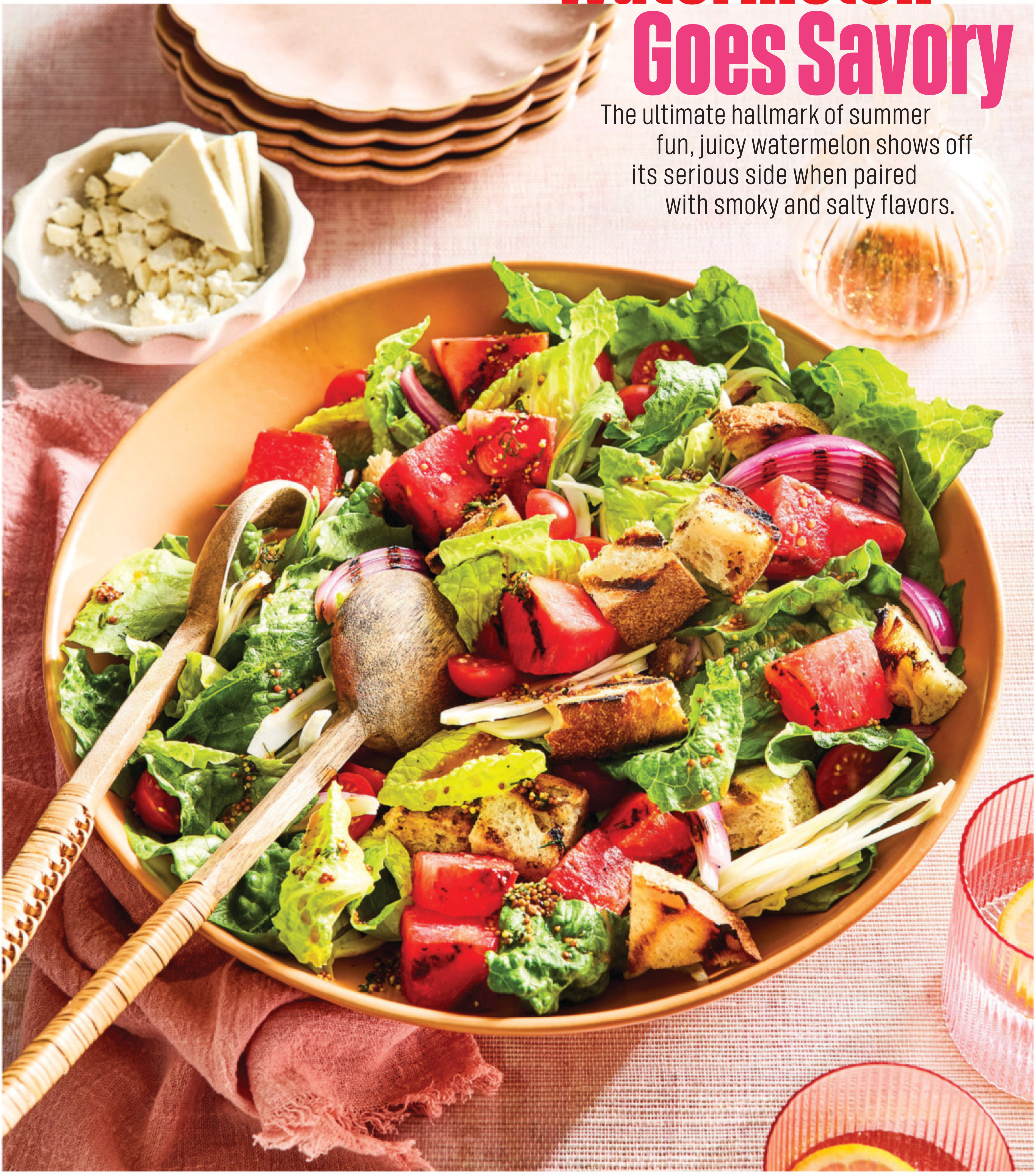
Watermelon Goes Savory

The ultimate hallmark of summer fun, juicy watermelon shows off its serious side when paired with smoky and salty flavors.



● **GRILLED WATERMELON PANZANELLA** Charred chunks of watermelon elevate this rustic Italian bread-and-veggie salad. Grilling a slab of melon—alongside the bread and red onion—imparts a smoky flavor that pops against romaine, fennel, and cherry tomatoes. For a shortcut to the same flavor profile without lighting up the grill, add a few drops of liquid smoke to the dill-mustard vinaigrette.

PROP STYLING: BREANNA GHAZALI; RECIPES BY JULIANA HALE

by ELIZABETH FOGARTY *photos* KELSEY HANSEN *food styling* ANNIE PROBST

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The best things in life start
with the simplest ingredients.
100% GRADE A MILK • CREAM
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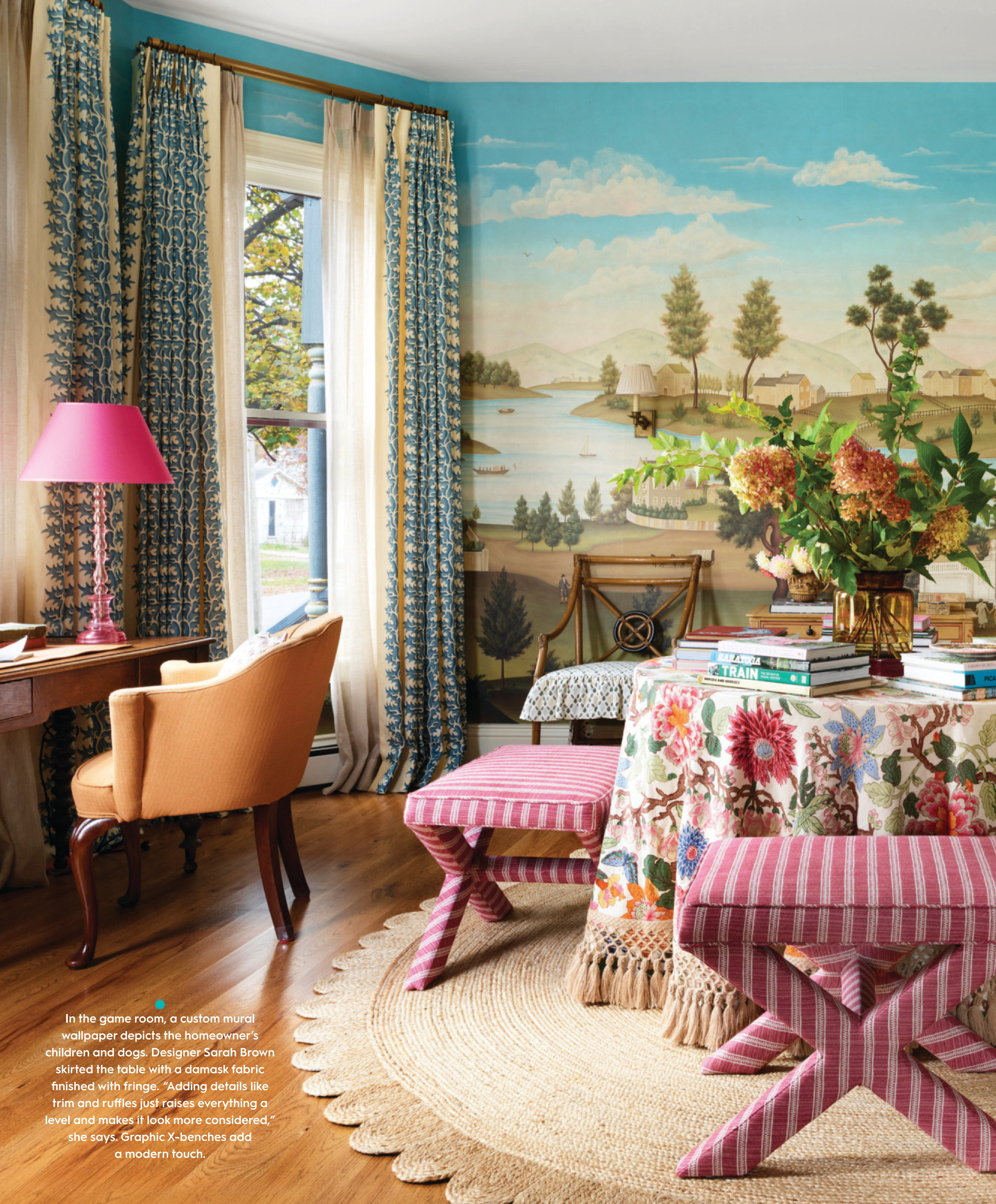
NATURAL
VANILLA
made with fresh cream,
sugar & milk

→ Because the melon gets top billing, use sweet, tender (not mushy) fruit.

RECIPES ON PAGE 93.

● WATERMELON RELISH Like a Mediterranean spin on pico de gallo, this raw diced relish, *above*, features melon, cucumber, and bell pepper and is flavored with fresh mint and sweet-hot Aleppo pepper flakes. Serve with chips, on fish tacos, or spooned over grilled meat or seafood. Or spread over grilled crostini and a schmear of creamy burrata.

● CHILE-WATERMELON SALAD Inspired by the flavors of Mexican salsa macha, this fruit salad, *left,* marries watermelon with lime, cilantro, dry-roasted peanuts, and chiles. The melon tames the heat and plays sweet to the peanuts' salt. Serve this kicky salad over grilled salmon or alongside fajitas, tacos, or even eggs. ■



In the game room, a custom mural wallpaper depicts the homeowner's children and dogs. Designer Sarah Brown skirted the table with a damask fabric finished with fringe. "Adding details like trim and ruffles just raises everything a level and makes it look more considered," she says. Graphic X-benches add a modern touch.

LUCK Be a *(Painted)* Lady

To achieve *ebullient British charm* for their Victorian in Upstate New York, this family called on London designer Sarah Brown to import a riot of color and pattern—with results as transfixing as a Cotswolds cottage.

by KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

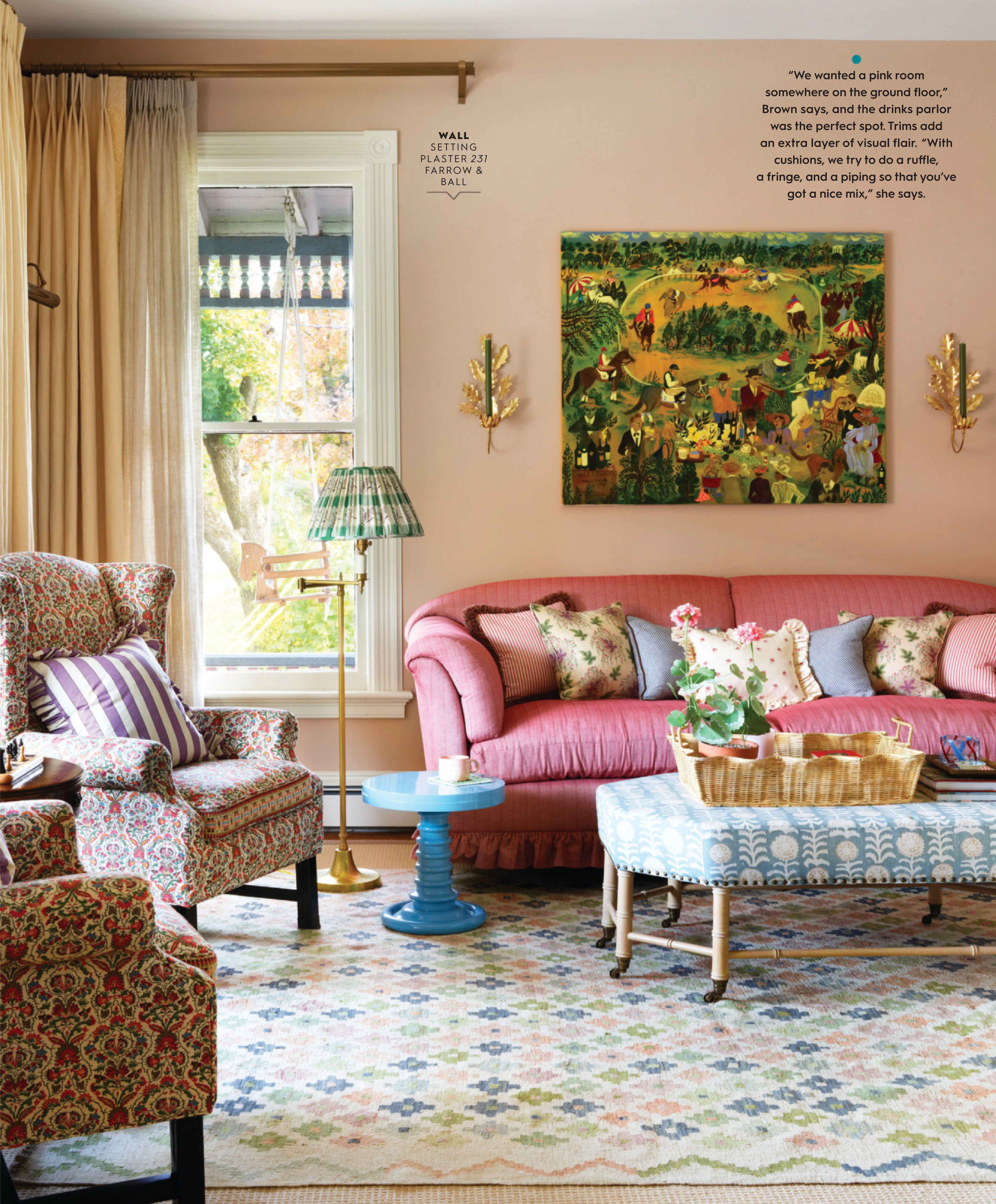
photos RACHAEL SMITH

When an equestrian family scooped up this 1886 painted lady Victorian in Saratoga Springs, NY, a horse-racing town, they wanted to design it in a style that's an established winner: the patterned, colorful interiors often found in Great Britain. "In a lively town with rich history, we knew we could have fun and take some risks," homeowner Kathryn Sharp says. She and husband Justin Nicholson hired London designer Sarah Brown to assist. "We asked Sarah and her team to design a home with bold, inviting colors, with a very British mix of antiques and layered fabrics," Kathryn says. The layering is key to the aesthetic, Brown says, "to keep it from looking 'designed.'"

That homey feeling was lacking when they first got their hands on the place. "All the walls were pale gray—I mean there was no color in it at all," Brown recalls. "We got rid of the gray quite swiftly." While colors in English homes can lean a bit muddy in undertone, here Brown went for happier hues that suit the summer season, with all paint colors from the historically inspired British brand Farrow & Ball.

Brown's signature is the mix of patterns. "We steer away from being too matchy," she says. "We try and bring in different types of patterns—a stripe, a small floral, a bigger floral, a plain. We almost tick off, 'Have we covered the types of print that, when you put them all together, creates a really nice balance?'" But there are methods of creating cohesion. The addition of

Designer Sarah Brown (*above* on the right, with senior designer Hattie Hawks on the Victorian home's colorful painted porch) sheathed the dining room walls in grass cloth, *above left*. The texture, in an easy-to-live-with neutral, makes the space feel a bit more cozy, Brown says. "It's not fighting too much with all the colors in the room."



“We wanted a pink room somewhere on the ground floor,” Brown says, and the drinks parlor was the perfect spot. Trims add an extra layer of visual flair. “With cushions, we try to do a ruffle, a fringe, and a piping so that you’ve got a nice mix,” she says.

WALL
SETTING PLASTER *231*
FARROW & BALL

> "THE MURAL IS VISIBLE FROM NEARLY EVERY ROOM ON THE MAIN LEVEL. WE LOVE HOW IT ECHOES THE SURROUNDING ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS."
>
> —KATHRYN SHARP, *homeowner*

1 *NEW HISTORY*

The painting above the pink sofa depicts the Saratoga Race Course, which has been open since 1863. Its riot of color provides connection for the palette and all of the patterns in the house.

2 *GRAPHIC TOUCH*

In the dining room, 12 Japanese botanicals hung in a grid act as one piece of art while speaking to the other hues in the room. The shirred ikat lampshades supply additional texture and another warm pattern against the grass-cloth walls.

3 *SOFTEN UP*

A flouncy skirt around the pedestal sink, a Roman shade on the window, and fabric lampshades on the sconces bring feminine touches to a bath with a lot of wood detailing.

4 *POP OF PINK*

A vibrant lamp casts a playful light in the game room. Behind the curtains, a sheer layer provides privacy and light flow at once.

5 *CLEVER COOKING*

The kitchen floor plan was sensible, and it functioned well, but the room needed a color upgrade. Brown chose Farrow & Ball Borrowed Light. The few tweaks they did make—including a new table the homeowner bought and hanging a print with a "nod to food and drink" by Sussex, England-based artist Kate Boxer—"changed the whole feel of the kitchen," Brown says.

6 *PLAYING DRESS-UP*

Kathryn "dresses up for the races. It's part of the fun," Brown says. "She had loads of hats in boxes, and I said, 'Why don't we just put them all up?'"

1

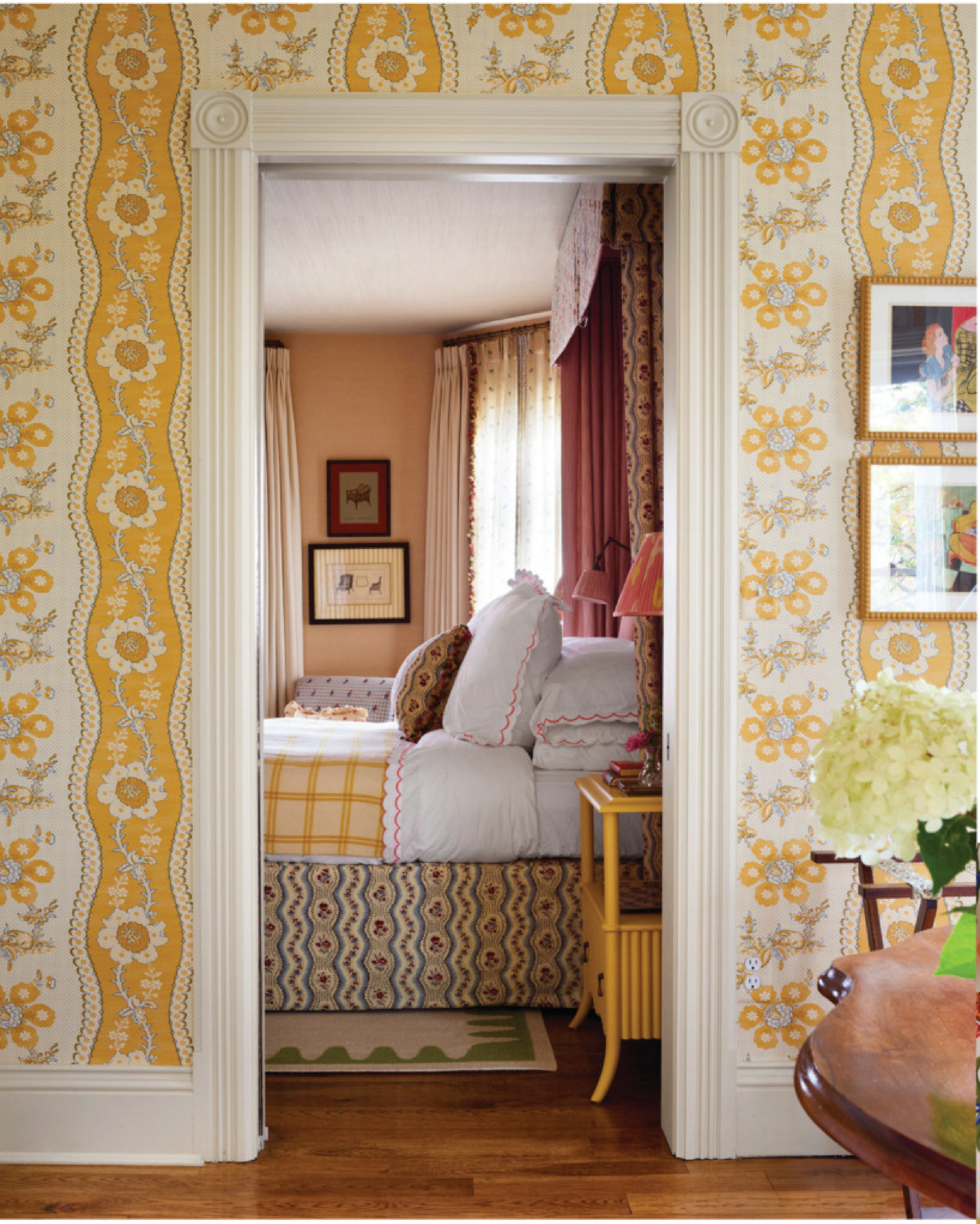
4

2

3

Good Ordinary Claret
5

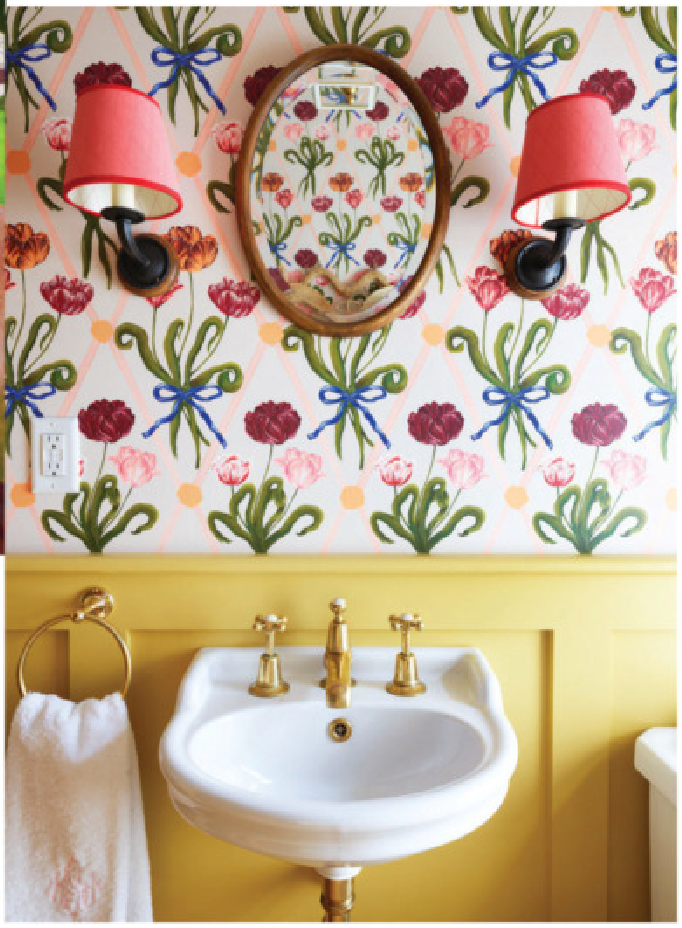
6



pinks and reds throughout the home is one way she created visual repetition.

The trick to achieving Brown's been-here-forever sensibility? "Sometimes it's good to have something a bit 'off' that you wouldn't necessarily choose because it is good in the mix, rather than looking like we've gone and bought everything," Brown says.

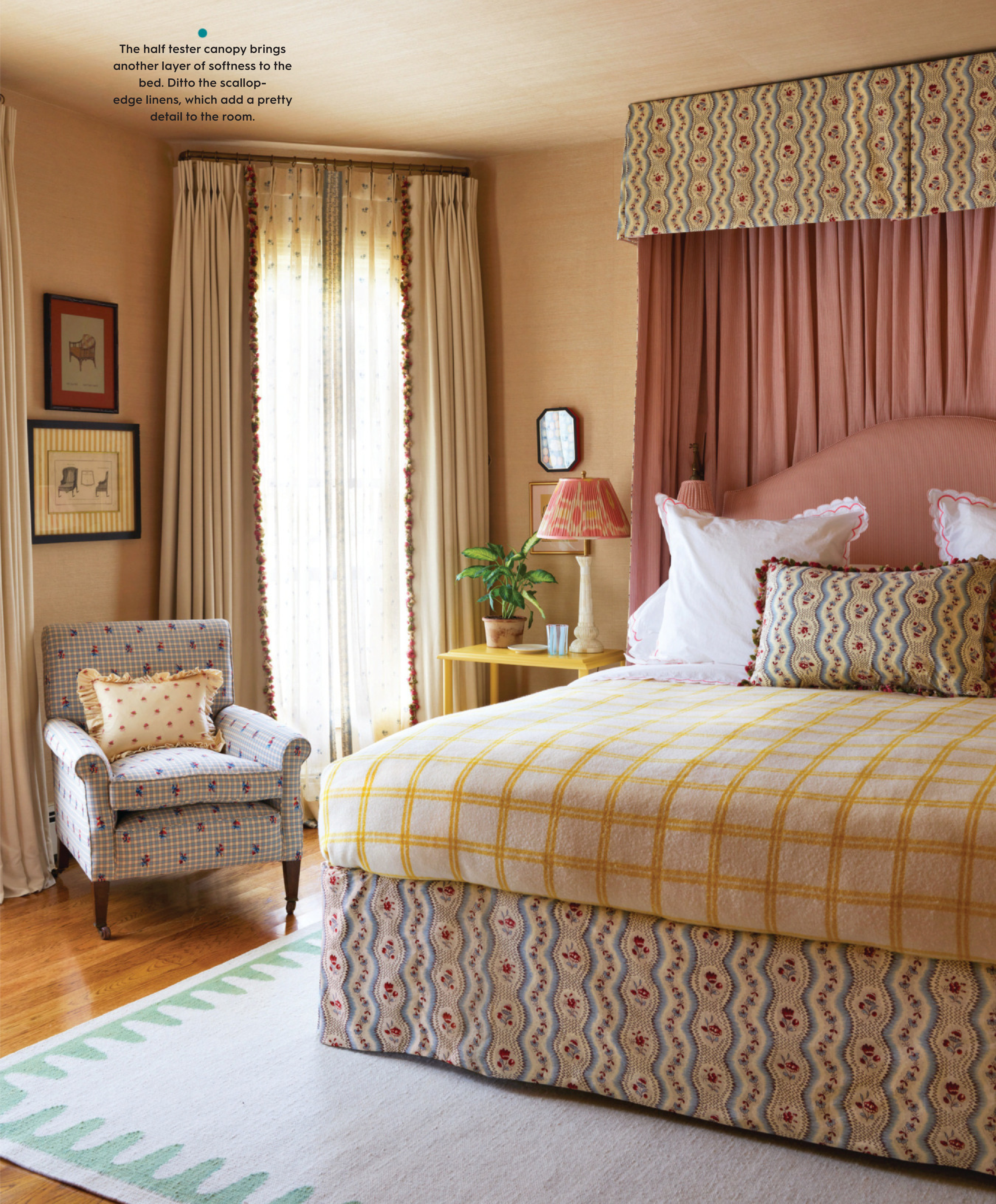
The most personal design feature is also the most unexpected. Halfway through the project, Kathryn brought up a vision she'd been having of a wall mural. "She said: 'I can't get it out of my head. I want to have this mural, and I want it to have the kids and the dogs in it,'" Brown recalls. They customized a hand-painted American folk wallpaper tailored to her fever dream. "The landmarks are personal and important—the Saratoga bandstand, their kids walking hand in hand, and their two little puppies." The look is a sentimental winner in any country. ■



> "THE MAIN BEDROOM AND ATTACHED DRESSING ROOM ARE MY FAVORITES. THEY FEEL BOTH VICTORIAN AND CONTEMPORARY—AND EXCEPTIONALLY COMFORTABLE."
>
> —KATHRYN SHARP

The wallpaper, Toile des Lapins by Nicholas Herbert, *above*, lends an aura of provenance. (Look closely and you'll see bunny rabbits in the pattern.)

The bathroom, *right*, was the perfect opportunity to add a bold patterned paper by a favorite illustrator above wainscoting painted Farrow & Ball Sudbury Yellow.



The half tester canopy brings another layer of softness to the bed. Ditto the scallop-edge linens, which add a pretty detail to the room.

Street Corn Salsa evokes the charred flavor of Mexican elote served hot off the grill and smothered in savory, spicy mayo. Bright citrus, salty Cotija, and cilantro help deliver the full street corn experience.

sweet sour salty spicy

GIVE YOUR FAVORITE POOLSIDE PAIRING AN UPGRADE. THESE REINVENTED RECIPES FOR SALSAS AND MARGARITAS TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF SUMMER FLAVORS FOR A PARTY-READY SPREAD.

Hibiscus flowers can be somewhat astringent, but simmering the blooms into a syrup releases their tart, floral sweetness in this Hibiscus-Watermelon Margarita.

by LIZZY BRISKIN *photos* CARSON DOWNING *food styling* CHARLIE WORTHINGTON

PROP STYLING: BREANNA GHAZALI. CORN SALSA: (PHOTO) KELSEY HANSEN, (FOOD STYLING) ANNIE PROBST.

① KIMCHI SALSA

Tangy, pleasantly funky kimchi punches up your usual chip-and-dip duo. Heat from the condiment's fermented garlic and chiles is tempered by fresh tomatoes and sweet Korean barbecue sauce for a salsa that's at once fiery and refreshing.

② SALSA VERDE CON TROZOS (CHUNKY GREEN SALSA)

A charred medley of fresh chiles, onions, and garlic lays a foundation of smoky, caramelized flavors. For more of a kick, leave some of the chile seeds in the mix.

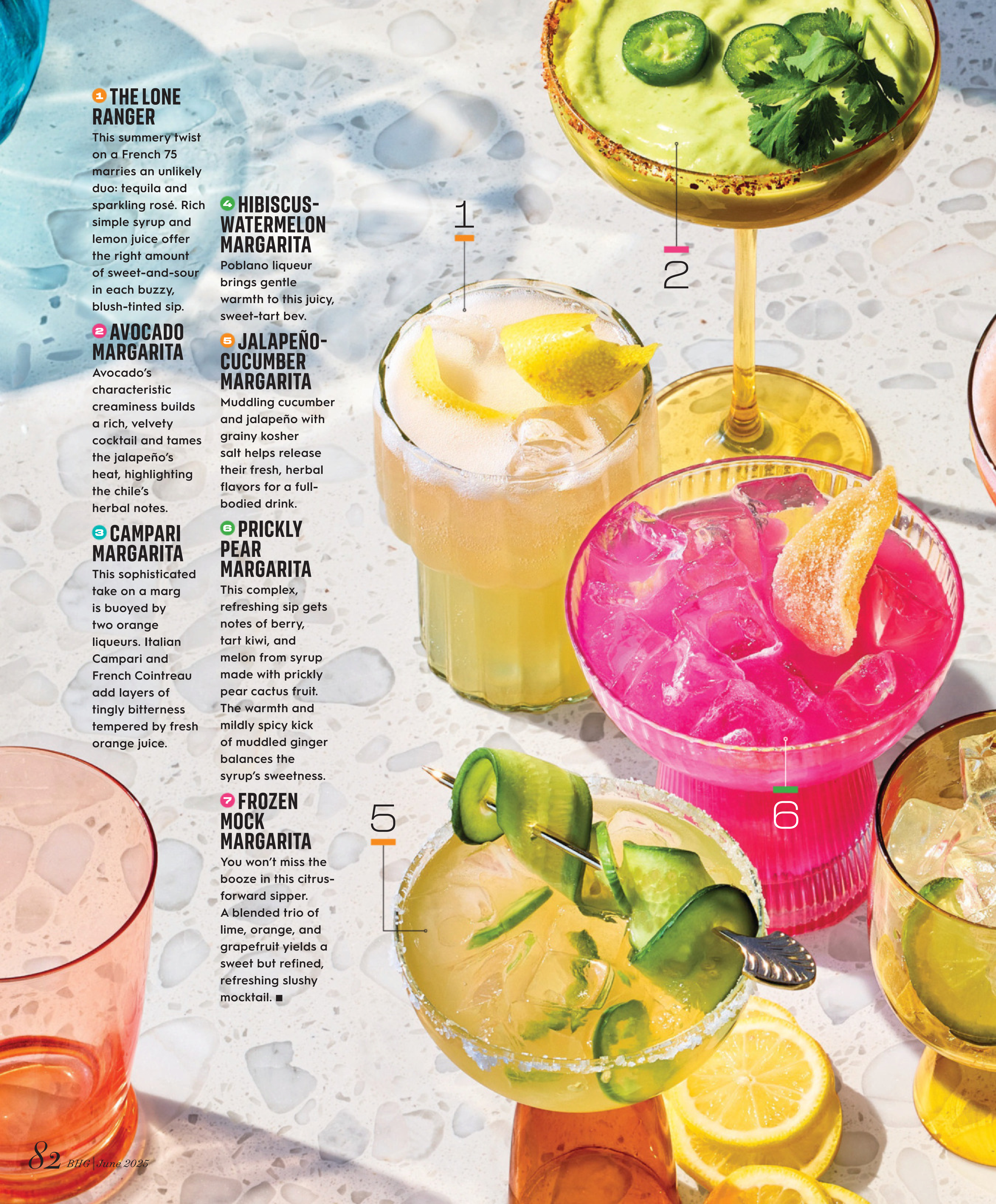
③ STREET CORN SALSA

Don't be shy about getting some color on your grilled kernels: Char adds rich smokiness.

④ PICKLED DE GALLO

Give pico de gallo a briny twist with pickled jalapeños, chopped dill pickles, and pickle juice. The result? A dip that lands somewhere between a fresh salsa and a vinegary relish.

RECIPES BEGIN ON PAGE 90.



① THE LONE RANGER

This summery twist on a French 75 marries an unlikely duo: tequila and sparkling rosé. Rich simple syrup and lemon juice offer the right amount of sweet-and-sour in each buzzy, blush-tinted sip.

② AVOCADO MARGARITA

Avocado's characteristic creaminess builds a rich, velvety cocktail and tames the jalapeño's heat, highlighting the chile's herbal notes.

③ CAMPARI MARGARITA

This sophisticated take on a marg is buoyed by two orange liqueurs. Italian Campari and French Cointreau add layers of tingly bitterness tempered by fresh orange juice.

④ HIBISCUS-WATERMELON MARGARITA

Poblano liqueur brings gentle warmth to this juicy, sweet-tart bev.

⑤ JALAPEÑO-CUCUMBER MARGARITA

Muddling cucumber and jalapeño with grainy kosher salt helps release their fresh, herbal flavors for a full-bodied drink.

⑥ PRICKLY PEAR MARGARITA

This complex, refreshing sip gets notes of berry, tart kiwi, and melon from syrup made with prickly pear cactus fruit. The warmth and mildly spicy kick of muddled ginger balances the syrup's sweetness.

⑦ FROZEN MOCK MARGARITA

You won't miss the booze in this citrus-forward sipper. A blended trio of lime, orange, and grapefruit yields a sweet but refined, refreshing slushy mocktail. ■

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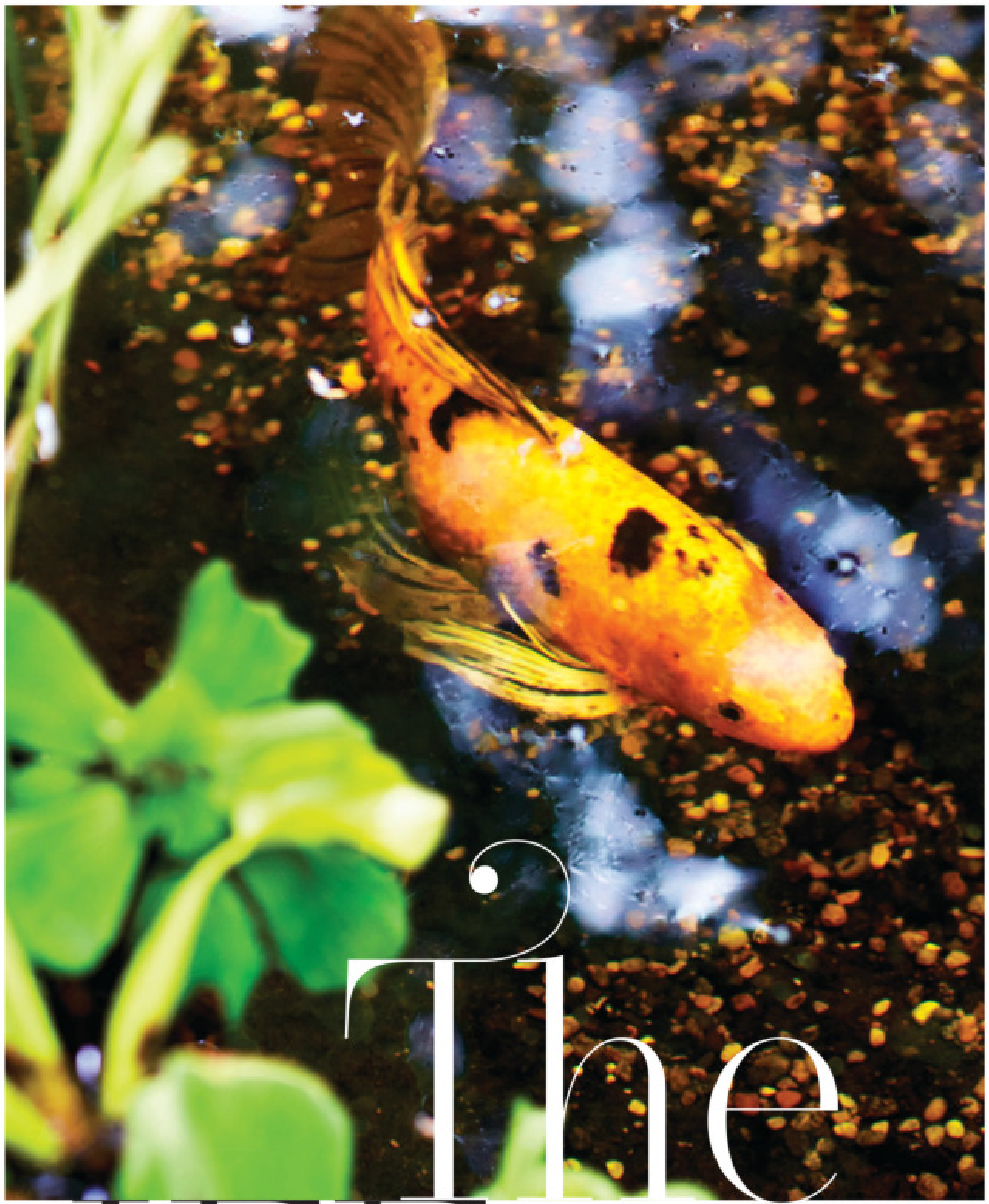
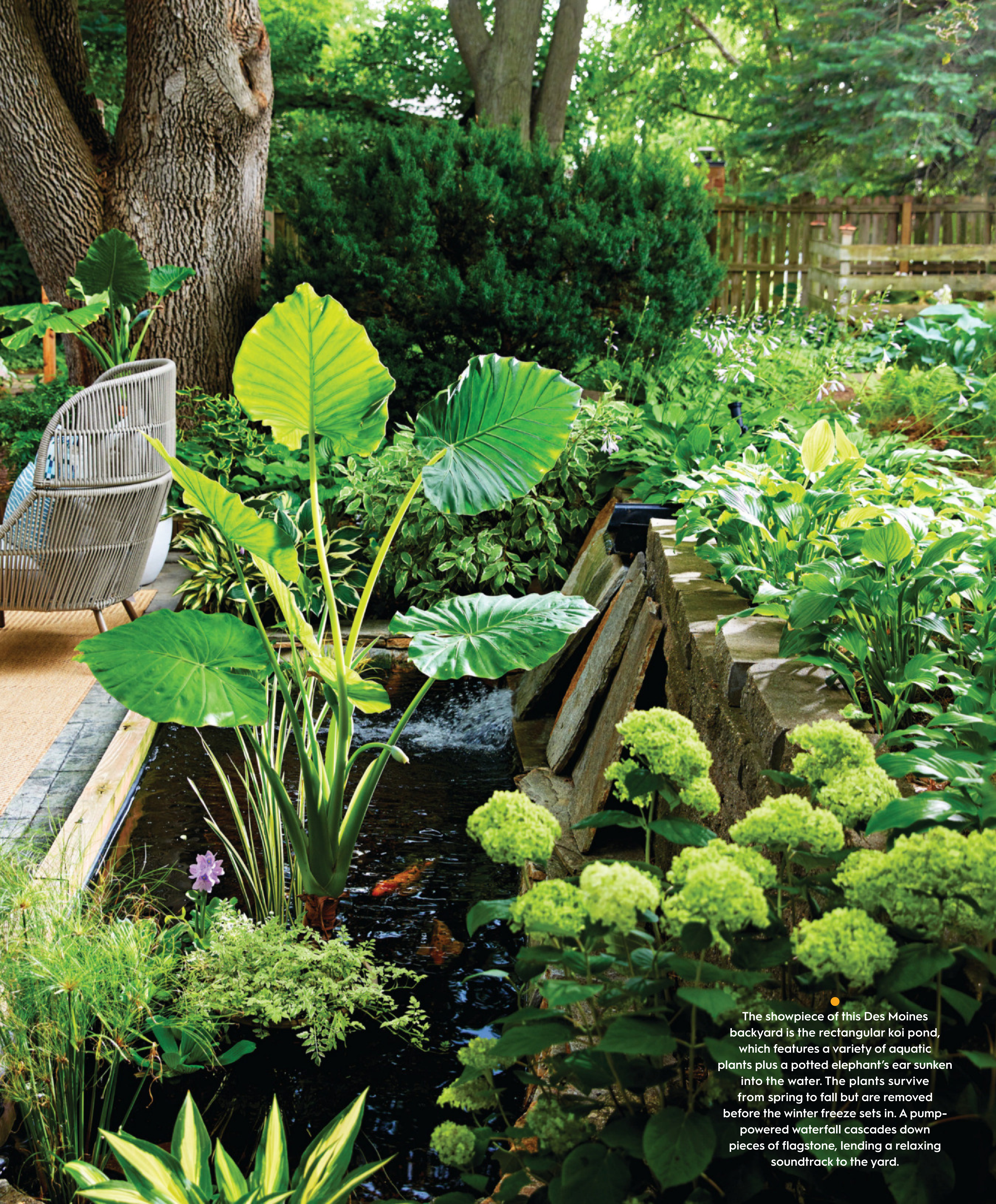


The LIFE AQUATIC

With a koi pond, a waterfall, and an ultralush landscape, a Midwestern backyard is transformed into a tranquil oasis for both people and wildlife.

by MIRANDA CROWELL *photos* CARSON DOWNING
prop styling JOSEPH WANEK



The showpiece of this Des Moines backyard is the rectangular koi pond, which features a variety of aquatic plants plus a potted elephant's ear sunken into the water. The plants survive from spring to fall but are removed before the winter freeze sets in. A pump-powered waterfall cascades down pieces of flagstone, lending a relaxing soundtrack to the yard.

A seating area encourages pondside lounging. The neutral and blue palette sets a calming tone, especially in combination with the abundant greenery and the soft pink leaves of a tricolor beech tree. *Better Homes & Gardens Tarren Wicker Outdoor Chairs, $298 each;* walmart.com

Some prospective home buyers are wooed by a move-in-ready kitchen or expansive picture windows.

For Mark Vander Linden, the selling point for the Des Moines house he wound up buying was a simple koi pond in the backyard. "I just loved the serenity of it," he remembers. Twenty years later, Mark and his partner, Jarret Einck (art director at *Better Homes & Gardens*), have taken that serenity and expanded upon it, creating an idyllic retreat for themselves and their little family of fish.

The project required Mark (*below* on the right with Jarret) to dive deep into the world of aquatic gardening. With help from pond-supply stores—*thepondguy.com* is a favorite—he learned the essentials of maintenance: vigilantly removing leaves, laying netting to protect koi from predators, and placing a floating heater in the water each winter to get the koi through Des Moines' frigid temperatures. (See *page 88* for Mark's complete list of tips.)

Over the years, the couple have also transformed the pond into a central design feature of their quarter-acre backyard. "We liked the modern, rectilinear shape of the pond but also wanted to soften it a bit with plants," Jarret says. To that end, they planted a mass of hostas along the top of the retaining wall and bring in a mix of aquatic and tropical plants each spring. They also used a section of the same retaining wall above to create a small waterfall into the pond. While the plants are removed and the waterfall is turned off in winter, the pond is the center of all action the rest of the year: The koi swim, birds bathe, and frogs hop amid the water, while Jarret and Mark sit back and enjoy the oasis they've created.

Wildlife Welcome

The couple have made efforts to support all kinds of creatures throughout their garden. Here's how they earned designation as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation *(nwf.org)*—and how you can too.

- **SHELTER** The pond's plants create spots for frogs to lay their eggs and dragonflies to land. On a smaller scale, you can encourage wildlife to get cozy and raise their young with a nesting box or a toad house.
- **NATIVE PLANTS** To earn certification as a wildlife habitat, 70% of a garden's plants need to be native, which support pollinators and local insects. Mark achieved this by replacing the lawn beyond the pond with native plants like blazing star, butterfly weed, and Culver's root.
- **WATER SOURCE** It's not just the koi that benefit from the pond—local birds use it as a bathing and drinking spot. Adding a birdbath or container water garden can be equally beneficial. Just be sure to change out standing water often to prevent mosquitoes.

Pond Care 101

Mark shares his tips for keeping the pond pristine year-round.

1 KEEP IT CLEAN

A pump that recycles and filters water is vital to the health of a pond. (Mark cleans their filter every other week to keep it in prime condition.) Because the pond is underneath some large trees (whose shade the fish prefer), leaf removal has also been an important chore. "Too many leaves can clog a pond's filter and even suffocate your fish," Mark says.

2 FIGHT ALGAE

While a sunny spot will stimulate faster algae growth than a shady one, any aquatic gardener needs to keep algae in check. Mark has found success placing a barley straw bale in the water, which releases compounds that naturally prevent algae growth. He also regularly adds a fish-safe enzyme called Pond-Zyme to the water to remove decaying algae. And in spring, he deals with any algae that has built up by applying algicide and adding a heavier dose of enzymes.

3 PREP FOR WINTER

Yes, koi can survive even a frigid winter with the right care. A pond should be at least 2 feet deep so it doesn't freeze solid, with a pond heater to ensure an area of open water for the fish to get oxygen. It's also important to stop feeding koi in winter, since their slowing metabolism makes them unable to digest food.

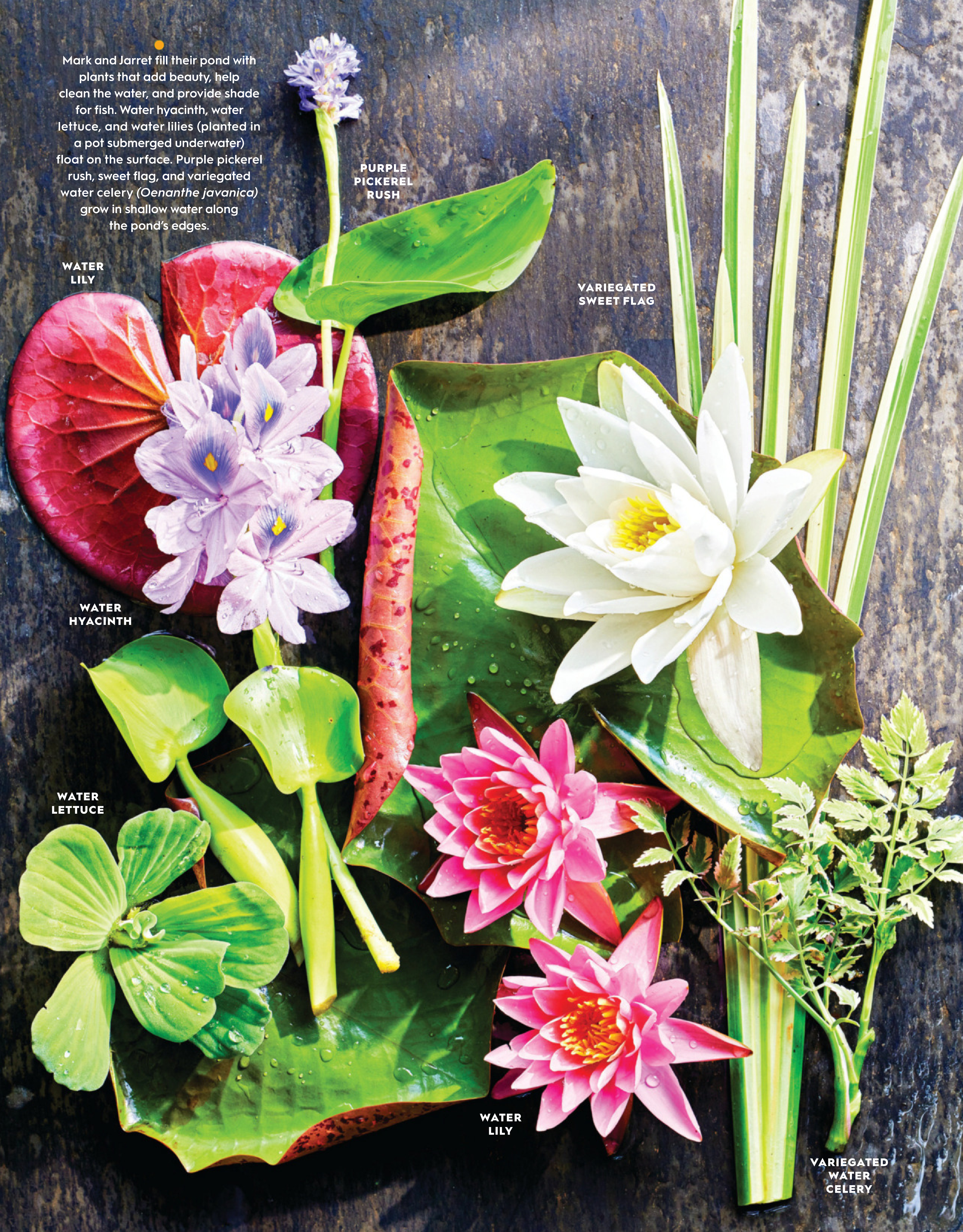
4 PRACTICE CROWD CONTROL

Fish need personal space too. For happy koi as well as a clean pond, the general rule of thumb is to keep one adult koi per 250 gallons of water. Jarret and Mark have three large koi in their pond, which measures 13 by 5 feet.

5 PROTECT FROM PREDATORS

After being devastated by the loss of several fish to a mink years ago, Mark and Jarret learned that a loose but sturdy net over the pond keeps their koi safe from predators (with the added bonus of keeping leaves off the surface of the water). They also think larger fish are less enticing prey than smaller ones. ■

Mark and Jarret fill their pond with plants that add beauty, help clean the water, and provide shade for fish. Water hyacinth, water lettuce, and water lilies (planted in a pot submerged underwater) float on the surface. Purple pickerel rush, sweet flag, and variegated water celery *(Oenanthe javanica)* grow in shallow water along the pond's edges.


PURPLE PICKEREL RUSH
WATER LILY
VARIEGATED SWEET FLAG
WATER HYACINTH
WATER LETTUCE
WATER LILY
VARIEGATED WATER CELERY

WATER LILY BLOOMS PROVIDED BY THE GREATER DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN

●**SWEET SOUR SALTY SPICY**
pages 78–83

Kimchi Salsa

Korean barbecue sauce (such as those from CJ Foods, Bibigo, and Momofuku brands) adds some heat and a bit of sweetness to contrast this salsa's strong umami flavors.

START TO FINISH 15 min.

1	**cup kimchi**
1	**cup chopped tomato (1 medium beefsteak or 2 medium romas)**
½	**cup chopped green onions or white onion**
¼	**cup chopped fresh mint and/or cilantro**
1	**Tbsp. Korean barbecue sauce**
1	**tsp. grated fresh ginger (optional)**
	Gochujang or sriracha sauce (optional)

Drain kimchi, reserving 2 Tbsp. liquid. Chop into bite-size pieces. In a medium bowl stir together kimchi, tomato, green onions, mint and/or cilantro, barbecue sauce, ginger (if using), and reserved kimchi liquid. If you like, drizzle with additional barbecue sauce, gochujang, or sriracha before serving. Refrigerate in an airtight container up to 3 days. Makes 2½ cups.

PER ¼ CUP *11 cal, 111 mg sodium, 2 g carb, 1 g fiber, 1 g sugars*

Salsa Verde con Trozos (Chunky Green Salsa)

Pulse your veggies just enough for scoopable chunks of charred peppers and tangy tomatillos.

HANDS ON 15 min.
TOTAL TIME 50 min.

3	**fresh poblano, Anaheim, Cubanelle, and/or Hatch peppers (about 12 oz.)**
1	**medium onion, roughly chopped (1 cup)**
2	**garlic cloves, unpeeled**
1	**(11-oz.) can tomatillos, drained**
2	**Tbsp. fresh lime juice**
2	**Tbsp. packed fresh cilantro**

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a baking sheet with foil. Halve peppers lengthwise; remove stems, seeds (keep some if you want more heat), and membranes. Place pepper halves, cut sides down, on the prepared baking sheet; add onion and garlic. Lightly coat vegetables with *nonstick cooking spray* or lightly brush with vegetable oil. Roast until peppers are charred, 20 to 25 minutes.

2. Transfer onion to a food processor or blender. Squeeze garlic from skins; add to food processor. Bring foil up around peppers and fold edges together to enclose. Let stand 15 minutes or until cool enough to handle.

3. Peel off and discard skins from peppers; coarsely chop. Add peppers, tomatillos, lime juice, cilantro, and ½ tsp. *salt* to the food processor. Pulse to desired texture. Refrigerate in an airtight container up to 1 week. Makes 2½ cups.

PER ¼ CUP *23 cal, 1 g fat, 172 mg sodium, 4 g carb, 2 g fiber, 1 g sugars, 1 g pro*

Street Corn Salsa

HANDS ON 20 min.
TOTAL TIME 2 hr. 30 min.

4	**ears sweet corn, husked**
1	**lime**
½	**cup finely chopped red bell pepper**
½	**cup finely chopped red onion**
¼	**cup chopped fresh cilantro, plus more for garnish**
1	**fresh jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped (1 Tbsp.)**
½	**cup crumbled Cotija cheese (2 oz.)**

1. Coat corn with *nonstick cooking spray.* Grill corn, uncovered, over medium heat, turning frequently, just until tender, 12 to 16 minutes. Remove from grill. When cool enough to handle, cut kernels from cobs. (You should have 2 cups.)

2. Remove ¾ tsp. zest and squeeze 2 Tbsp. juice from lime. In a large bowl combine lime zest and juice, corn kernels, bell pepper, onion, cilantro, jalapeño, 2 Tbsp. *olive oil,* ½ tsp. *salt,* and ¼ tsp.

Rim margarita glasses with coarse salt, sugar, and/or citrus zest.

ground black pepper. Refrigerate, covered, at least 2 hours or up to 12 hours.

3. Before serving, stir in ¼ cup of the Cotija cheese. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. If you like, garnish with additional cilantro. Serve immediately (or refrigerate, covered, up to 4 hours). Makes 3 cups.

PER ¼ CUP *66 cal, 4 g fat (1 g sat fat), 5 mg chol, 171 mg sodium, 6 g carb, 1 g fiber, 2 g sugars, 2 g pro*

Pickled de Gallo

START TO FINISH 15 min.

1 medium yellow bell pepper, chopped (1 cup)
1 medium tomato, chopped (1 cup)
1 cup chopped dill pickles
½ cup chopped red onion
¼ cup pickled jalapeño slices, chopped
¼ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 Tbsp. dill pickle juice
1 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
1 avocado, peeled and chopped

In a medium bowl stir together bell pepper, tomato, pickles, onion, jalapeño, parsley, and garlic. Add pickle juice, lime juice, ¼ tsp. *salt,* and ¼ tsp. *ground black pepper;* toss to coat. Refrigerate, covered, up to 24 hours. Before serving, stir in avocado. Makes 4 cups.

PER ¼ CUP *23 cal, 1 g fat, 166 mg sodium, 3 g carb, 1 g fiber, 1 g sugars*

PHOTOS: (DRINKS) KELSEY HANSEN, (HIBISCUS) CARSON DOWNING

Hibiscus-Watermelon Margarita

Ancho Reyes Verde is a bright, warming liqueur made from roasted poblano peppers. You can use regular Ancho Reyes or skip the heat altogether.

START TO FINISH 5 min.

Kosher salt (optional)
Lime zest (optional)
Lime wedge (optional)
Ice cubes
2 oz. (¼ cup) Watermelon Puree
1½ oz. (3 Tbsp.) silver tequila
¾ oz. (1½ Tbsp.) Hibiscus Syrup
¾ oz. (1½ Tbsp.) lime juice
½ oz. (1 Tbsp.) Ancho Reyes Verde (optional)
Watermelon wedge and/or fresh hibiscus blossom (optional)

1. To rim glass (if you like), use your fingers to rub together salt and lime zest on a small plate. Rub rim of a glass with lime wedge, then dip rim in lime salt.

2. In an ice-filled cocktail shaker combine Watermelon Puree, tequila, Hibiscus Syrup, lime juice, and Ancho Reyes Verde (if using). Cover and shake until outside of shaker is frosted, 30 seconds. Strain into prepared glass. If you like, garnish with watermelon wedge and/or a hibiscus blossom. Makes 1 margarita.

WATERMELON PUREE In a blender puree 2 cups seedless watermelon cubes until smooth. Strain if desired. (If your melon lacks flavor, add a pinch of salt.) Makes about 1¼ cups.

SWEET-TART BLOOMS

> "Dried Jamaica flowers (aka hibiscus) lend a fruity, tart, subtly floral flavor. Simmer, then steep blooms in agave to sweeten your margarita."
>
> —CARRIE BOYD,
> *executive food editor*

HIBISCUS SYRUP In a small saucepan bring ½ cup water to boiling. Add 1 Tbsp. dried hibiscus flowers; reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in ½ cup agave syrup. Cover and steep 20 minutes. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve into a jar. Refrigerate, covered, until ready to use. Makes ¾ cup.

PER MARGARITA *249 cal, 3 mg sodium, 30 g carb, 25 g sugars*

The Lone Ranger

Rich syrup, made with a higher sugar-to-water ratio than your typical simple syrup, is sweeter and more dense. It rounds out the bite of dry rosé and fresh lemon in this fizzy cocktail.

START TO FINISH 5 min.

Ice cubes
1½ oz. (3 Tbsp.) silver tequila
1 oz. (2 Tbsp.) lemon juice
½ oz. (1 Tbsp.) Rich Simple Syrup
2 oz. (¼ cup) sparkling rosé wine, chilled
Lemon twist

In an ice-filled cocktail shaker combine tequila, lemon juice, and Rich Simple Syrup. Cover and shake until outside of shaker is frosted, 30 seconds. Strain into an ice-filled glass. Top with rosé. Garnish with a lemon twist. Makes 1 margarita.

RICH SIMPLE SYRUP In a small saucepan combine ¾ cup sugar and ⅓ cup water. Bring to boiling, stirring to dissolve sugar. Cool completely. Transfer to a jar. Cover and chill until ready to use. Makes ¾ cup.

BIG BATCH In a pitcher combine 2¼ cups silver tequila, 1½ cups lemon juice, and 1 recipe Rich Simple Syrup. Chill until ready to serve. Add one 750-ml bottle chilled sparkling rosé wine before serving. Serve in ice-filled glasses and garnish with lemon twists. Serves 12.

PER MARGARITA *192 cal, 1 mg sodium, 16 g carb, 13 g sugars*

Avocado Margaritas

Buttery blended avocado delivers a creamy foundation for tequila's clean, bright flavor.

START TO FINISH 5 min.

Chile-lime seasoning, such as Tajín (optional)
Lime wedge (optional)
1 avocado, halved and peeled
4 oz. (½ cup) silver tequila
2 oz. (¼ cup) lime juice (from 2 medium limes)
2 oz. (¼ cup) triple sec, such as Cointreau
2 to 3 tsp. agave nectar
2 to 3 thin slices fresh jalapeño pepper, plus more for garnish
2 cups crushed ice
Fresh cilantro (optional)

1. To rim glasses (if you like), spread chile-lime seasoning on a small plate. Rub rims of two

Tequila 101

Tequilas are classified based on how long they're aged. Silver (blanco) tequila is aged up to two months and has a crisp, agave-forward flavor. Gold (joven) tequila is usually a blend of unaged tequila with a bit of the complex, oak-aged flavors (e.g., caramel, vanilla, dried fruit) you can expect from reposado tequila (aged between two months and one year).

glasses with a lime wedge, then dip rims in seasoning.

2. In a blender combine avocado, tequila, lime juice, triple sec, agave nectar, and jalapeño. Add ice. Cover and blend until smooth.

3. Divide mixture between glasses and garnish with additional jalapeño slices and/or cilantro, if you like. Makes 2 margaritas.

PER MARGARITA *381 cal, 11 g fat (1 g sat fat), 8 mg sodium, 26 g carb, 5 g fiber, 19 g sugars, 1 g pro*

Campari Margarita

To soften the booziness, serve your drink over ice.

START TO FINISH 5 min.

Ice cubes
1½ **oz. (3 Tbsp.) freshly squeezed orange juice**
1½ **oz. (3 Tbsp.) silver tequila**
¾ **oz. (1½ Tbsp.) lime juice**
¾ **oz. (1½ Tbsp.) triple sec, such as Cointreau**
½ **oz. (1 Tbsp.) Campari**
Thin orange wheel (optional)
Thin lime wheel (optional)

In an ice-filled cocktail shaker combine orange juice, tequila, lime juice, triple sec, and Campari. Cover and shake until outside of shaker is frosted, 30 seconds. Strain into a cocktail glass. If you like, garnish with orange and lime wheels. Makes 1 margarita.

PER MARGARITA *251 cal, 3 mg sodium, 21 g carb, 18 g sugars*

Jalapeño-Cucumber Margaritas

Choose a lime-forward margarita mix—a mixture of lime juice, sweetener, and sometimes orange liqueur or juice—for this big-batch spicy marg.

START TO FINISH 15 min.

Kosher salt
Lime wedges
½ **of a medium English cucumber, sliced, plus more for garnish**
1 **fresh jalapeño pepper, seeded (if desired) and sliced, plus more for garnish**
3 **cups margarita mix**
1½ **cups gold tequila**
¾ **cup orange liqueur, such as Patrón Citrónge**
Ice cubes

1. To rim glasses, spread salt on a small plate. Rub rims of eight glasses with lime wedges, then dip rims in salt.

2. In a pitcher combine cucumber, jalapeño slices, and ½ tsp. kosher salt. Muddle until cucumber and jalapeño are crushed. Add margarita mix, tequila, and orange liqueur. Serve over ice in prepared glasses. If you like, slice thin strips of cucumber and thread accordion-style onto skewers. Garnish margaritas with skewers and additional jalapeño slices. Makes 8 margaritas.

PER MARGARITA *261 cal, 159 mg sodium, 29 g carb, 21 g sugars*

Prickly Pear Margarita

For more sugar than spice, omit the fresh ginger and top each glass with a 2-ounce floater of cold ginger beer.

START TO FINISH 5 min.

2 **oz. (¼ cup) silver tequila**
1 **to 2 slices peeled fresh ginger**
Ice cubes
1 **oz. (2 Tbsp.) lime juice**
¾ **oz. (1½ Tbsp.) prickly pear cactus syrup, such as Cheri's**
¾ **oz. (1½ Tbsp.) triple sec, such as Cointreau**
Candied ginger (optional)

In a cocktail shaker combine tequila and sliced ginger. Muddle until crushed. Fill shaker half full with ice. Add lime juice, prickly pear syrup, and triple sec. Cover and shake until outside of shaker is frosted, 30 seconds. Double-strain into an ice-filled rocks glass through a small fine-mesh sieve. If you like, garnish with candied ginger. Makes 1 margarita.

PER MARGARITA *261 cal, 7 mg sodium, 23 g carb, 19 g sugars*

Frozen Mock Margaritas

START TO FINISH 10 min.

Kosher salt or coarse sugar (optional)
Lime wedges (optional)
1 **6-oz. can frozen limeade concentrate**
¾ **cup orange juice**
⅔ **cup unsweetened grapefruit juice**
4 **cups ice cubes**
Lime or orange wedges or slices (optional)

1. To rim glasses (if you like), spread salt or sugar on a small plate. Rub rims of 10 glasses with lime wedges, then dip rims in salt.

2. In a blender combine limeade

Mix It Up

Try our picks for purchased margarita mixes for happy hour in a flash.

TRES AGAVES
CLASSIC LIME MARGARITA MIX
ORGANIC

TRES AGAVES
A straightforward blend of agave, lime juice, water, and vitamin C, this mix hits the perfect sweet-tart notes when mixed with tequila. $10; *tresagaves.com*

AGALIMA
ORGANIC
THE AUTHENTIC MARGARITA MIX

AGALIMA
A premium mix of just lime juice and blue agave nectar, this mix tastes like freshly squeezed citrus. Also available in a spicy version. $25; *agalima.com*

filthy
PREMIUM ALL NATURAL
MARGARITA MIX

FILTHY
A fresh, crisp, lime-forward mix packaged in an aluminum pouch that's beach- and picnic-ready. $10 for 32-oz. party pouch; *filthyfood.com*

PHOTOS: (TEQUILA, MIXES) CARSON DOWNING, (WATERMELON) JAKE STERNQUIST

concentrate, orange juice, and grapefruit juice. Cover and blend until smooth. With blender running, gradually add ice cubes through hole in lid, blending until slushy. Pour into prepared glasses and garnish with lime wedges (if using). Serves 10.

PER MARGARITA *47 cal, 5 mg sodium, 12 g carb, 11 g sugars*

● JUNETEENTH JUBILEE
page 25

Hibiscus-Watermelon Coolers

HANDS ON 20 min.
TOTAL TIME 4 hr. 20 min., plus freezing

- **1 medium seedless watermelon**
- **1 cup sugar**
- **1 cup hibiscus flowers, rinsed and dried**
- **Handful of fresh mint, torn and crushed, plus more for serving**
- **Ice cubes**

1. Remove and discard watermelon rind and white flesh. Dice half of melon; place cubes in a single layer in a parchment paper-lined reusable storage container. (You can stack cubes with parchment between layers, but don't let them touch.) Freeze overnight.

2. Meanwhile, cut remaining melon into chunks. Combine melon and sugar in a blender; cover and blend to a liquid. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve; discard pulp. Transfer to a gallon-size pitcher; chill.

3. In a medium pot, heat ½ gal. water to boiling. Turn off heat; add hibiscus. Steep 4 hours. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve. Add tea and mint to the pitcher; stir vigorously. Serve over ice, frozen watermelon cubes, and additional mint leaves in a tall glass. Makes 12 to 16 coolers.

PER COOLER *112 cal, 9 mg sodium, 29 g carb, 1 g fiber, 29 g sugars, 1 g pro*

● WATERMELON GOES SAVORY
pages 66–69

Grilled Watermelon Panzanella

START TO FINISH
25 min.

- **2 ½-inch slices artisan bread (3 oz.)**
- **1 ¾-inch slice seedless watermelon, rind on (about 1 lb.) (see "How to Grill Melon,"** ***right*****)**
- **1 small red onion, quartered, core intact**
- **5 cups chopped or torn romaine lettuce**
- **1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved**
- **½ cup shaved fresh fennel**
- **3 Tbsp. red wine vinegar**
- **1 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill**
- **2 tsp. whole grain mustard**
- **1 tsp. honey**
- **2 oz. ricotta salata or Cotija cheese, crumbled (½ cup) (optional)**

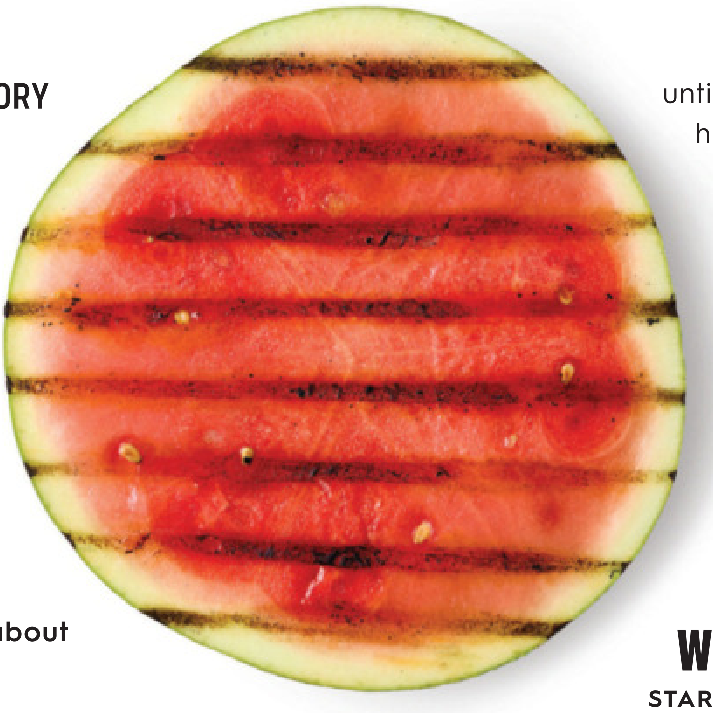
1. Brush bread, watermelon, and red onion with 1 Tbsp. *olive oil.* Grill watermelon, bread, and onion, covered, over medium heat, turning once, until lightly charred (1 to 3 minutes for bread, 6 to 8 minutes for watermelon, and 8 to 10 minutes for onion).

2. Remove and discard watermelon rind. Cut watermelon and bread into 1-inch cubes. Trim core from onion wedges and separate into bite-size pieces.

3. In a large bowl combine watermelon, bread, onion, lettuce, tomatoes, and fennel.

4. In a screw-top jar combine 3 Tbsp. olive oil, the vinegar, dill, mustard, honey, ¼ tsp. *salt,* and ¼ tsp. *ground black pepper.* Cover and shake well. Pour over salad; toss to combine. Sprinkle with ricotta salata (if using). Serve immediately. Serves 5.

PER SERVING *225 cal, 14 g fat (3 g sat fat), 10 mg chol, 359 mg sodium, 22 g carb, 2 g fiber, 11 g sugars, 5 g pro*



HOW TO GRILL MELON

The best way to grill watermelon is to cut a ¾-inch-thick round out of the melon's middle. (One pound of untrimmed melon yields about 1½ cups grilled cubes.)

Chile-Watermelon Salad

START TO FINISH 20 min.

- **2 limes**
- **1 fresh Anaheim or banana pepper, thinly sliced (½ cup)**
- **1 fresh jalapeño or serrano pepper, thinly sliced (¼ cup)**
- **2 Tbsp. honey**
- **½ tsp. minced garlic (1 clove)**
- **½ tsp. dried Mexican oregano, crushed**
- **8 cups roughly chopped seedless watermelon**
- **¼ cup finely chopped dry-roasted peanuts**
- **2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro**
- **Grilled salmon, shrimp, or chicken (optional)**

Remove 2 tsp. zest and squeeze ¼ cup juice from limes. In a large bowl whisk together lime zest, lime juice, and 1 tsp. *kosher salt* until salt dissolves. Stir in chiles, honey, garlic, oregano, and 2 Tbsp. *olive oil.* Stir in watermelon. Top with peanuts and cilantro. Serve over grilled salmon and garnish with additional cilantro, if you like. Makes 8 cups.

PER 1 CUP *126 cal, 6 g fat (1 g sat fat), 142 mg sodium, 19 g carb, 1 g fiber, 14 g sugars, 2 g pro*

Watermelon Relish

START TO FINISH 10 min.

- **1½ cups diced seedless watermelon**
- **1 cup diced bell pepper**
- **⅔ cup diced cucumber**
- **2 Tbsp. finely chopped shallot**
- **2 Tbsp. chopped fresh mint**
- **2 Tbsp. sherry vinegar**
- **1 tsp. Aleppo pepper**
- **Grilled crostini and burrata cheese (optional)**

In a medium bowl combine watermelon, bell pepper, cucumber, shallot, and mint. Drizzle with vinegar and 2 Tbsp. *olive oil.* Sprinkle with Aleppo pepper and 1 tsp. *salt.* Toss to combine. If you like, serve with crostini and burrata. Makes 2 cups.

PER ⅓ CUP *23 cal, 166 mg sodium, 5 g carb, 1 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 1 g pro* ■

SWEEPSTAKES RULES

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We've gathered hardworking companions to pack in your toiletry kit so you look and feel your best on the road.

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Reusable bottles with an airless pump design to protect your most precious products. $15 for 1.7 oz., $18 for 3.4 oz.; *ries-ries.com*

SECRET WHOLE BODYDEODORANT TRAVEL SIZE
The size is mini, but the odor protection is mighty—it lasts up to 72 hours. No aluminum, baking soda, dyes, phthalates, or parabens. $4; *target.com*

PETER THOMAS ROTH WATER DRENCH BROAD SPECTRUM SPF 45
A moisturizer, sunscreen with a light tint, and skin-enhancing hyaluronic acid all-in-one makes this worth the price. $56; *sephora.com*

SUBTL. STAK
A condensed version of your makeup bag in customizable stacks of eye shadows, blushes, and concealers. $12–$18 each; *subtlbeauty.com*

GILLETTE VENUS SNAP WOMEN'S ON-THE-GO RAZOR
The handle is mini (and easy to grip), but the blade is full-size. Stash it in your travel kit so you'll never forget it. $10; *amazon.com*

LANOLIPS 101 OINTMENT MULTIPURPOSE SUPERBALM
This dense balm goes beyond lip service; use on insect bites, dry cuticles, and chafed skin. $17; *target.com*

OLAY CLEANSING MELTS
Add water and this cleansing pad dissolves into a lather. Massage on your face to wash away excess oil, sweat, and makeup. $5 for a 12-pack; *olay.com*

by GABRIELLE PORCARO *photo* JACOB FOX

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In the BAG

Our favorite toiletry pouches to tote your essentials.

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Three sections make it roomy; soft sides make it easy to stash in a suitcase. $40; *cotopaxi.com*

DAGNE DOVER MILA TOILETRY ORGANIZER
Sturdy, sectioned compartments keep everything organized. $55; *dagnedover.com*

Made from recycled polyester and recycled plastic bottles!

AERIE POUCH SET
We love the designs (and the price) of this set of three that fits neatly together for easy storage. $30; *aerie.com*

CALPAK TERRA HANGING TOILETRY BAG
Lots of pockets with a strap to hang so everything stays dry. $56; *calpak.com*

BETSY OLMSTED QUILTED DOPP
A chic quilted outside with a waterproof lining inside. $34; *betsyolmsted.com*

UP, UP, AND AWAY

A Few More Faves

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Soothe the stresses of travel with six essentials: lip balm, moisturizer, facial mist and mask, a relaxing lavender balm, and hand-sanitizing wipes. $38; *lather.com*

CHI LAVA MINISTYLER
If a straightener is part of your daily routine, this travel size is worth the investment. It does the job of the full-size hair tool in a compact package. $110; *chi.com*

PH-D BORIC ACID SENSITIVE HOLISTIC BODY WIPES
Travel can get, well, sweaty. These individually wrapped multipurpose wipes help you stay fresh on the go. $13 for 20 wipes; *phdfemininehealth.com*

TRAVALO REFILLABLE PERFUME SPRAY
Calling all perfume people: This allows you to take along your favorite scent without having to pack the entire bottle. $20 each; *youzey.com*

HOLLYWOOD FASHION SECRETS STYLE EMERGENCY KIT
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NEBRASKA

16 Visit Nebraska—On behalf of all Nebraskans, we invite you into the adventure of exploring our state. #HonestlyNE

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THE NEW Health Drinks?

On the beverage menu: More energy! Better mood! Happier gut! Many drinks claim to offer health benefits in addition to quenching your thirst. But do they deliver?

by ALICE OGLETHORPE

Gut-improving sodas

WHAT THEY ARE: Brands like Olipop and Poppi offer carbonated drinks in flavors like cream soda and root beer that contain prebiotics—a form of fiber that feeds the good bacteria in your digestive tract.

WHAT TO KNOW: Prebiotics help balance your gut microbiome, and experts say these sodas can help up your intake. “Most women should get 25 grams of fiber per day, but less than 10 percent of Americans meet that,” says Hannah Holscher, PhD, RD, associate professor of nutrition at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. “So while we nutritionists are always going to prioritize getting prebiotics from plant-based foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and legumes, since they also contain vitamins and minerals, these sodas can help you bridge that fiber gap.” A can of Olipop, for example, contains 9 grams of fiber, more than a third of your daily needs. If you’re a regular soda drinker, these can also be a good alternative since they’re lower in calories and sugar.

Fast-food energy drinks

WHAT THEY ARE: Dunkin’, Sonic, and Starbucks now offer caffeinated beverages in addition to the usual coffee and tea.

WHAT TO KNOW: These can be fine for some people and not so fine for others. With caffeine, more is not always better. Too much can cause a racing heart and anxiety, among other health issues. According to the FDA, adults should stick to a max of 400 milligrams of caffeine daily and teens 12 to 18 shouldn’t go over 100. Some of these drinks have a large portion of that daily limit. For example, the venti Tropical Citrus Iced Energy drink at Starbucks has 205 milligrams of caffeine, and the large Dunkin’ Energy drink has 192. “These are over the advisable amount for teens, but they can fit into an adult’s daily caffeine max,” says Toby Amidor, RD, a nutritionist and the author of *Health Shots.* Track the caffeine you have (don’t forget foods like chocolate and protein bars). If you want one of these drinks, factor their caffeine into your daily intake. It’s also a good idea to ask your doc how much caffeine is OK for you.

Stress-relieving beverages

WHAT THEY ARE: With ingredients known as adaptogens (herbs like ginseng and ashwagandha) and calming nutrients, fizzy drinks and infused waters from brands like Recess Mood and Moment claim to help you relax.

WHAT TO KNOW: “Adaptogens are herbs that have been used in traditional Chinese and Ayurvedic medicine, which are touted to help the body cope with stressors,” Amidor says. “The research isn’t strong on their benefits and some may interact with medications or exacerbate health conditions, so read exactly what’s in the drink and check with a health professional to ensure that it’s safe for you.” Research has shown that some ingredients, like L-theanine, can boost mood, but those studies were done with higher doses over longer periods. There isn’t enough data to show if these drinks make a difference, Amidor says. ■

PHOTOS: (PINK CANS) NADYA SO/500PXPLUS BY GETTY IMAGES, (WATER) NEW AFRICA/SHUTTERSTOCK, (PURPLE CANS) MIKROMAN6/MOMENT BY GETTY IMAGES

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FRESH PRODUCTS & PROMOTIONS TO LIVE A MORE COLORFUL LIFE

Monica Chavez, @house.of.esperanza

Let's get ready for summer with some tried-and-true methods to refresh your home, indoors and out. Try tips like these to feel lighter and brighter in the season of sun and fun.

BE PARTY READY

Summer is for BBQs and outdoor parties, so stock up on fresh condiments and clear out the fridge of expired ones. Discard them with confidence in Glad® ForceFlex™ MaxStrength Trash Bags, with a 2X reinforced top* for over-the-top strength.

KEEP MESSES AT BAY

Set up a bin outside for your al fresco gatherings. Already have an outdoor bin? Give it a good cleaning to start the season.

SHINE ON

Clean and rearrange outdoor furniture. Does anything need power washing, mending, or replacing?

THINK AHEAD

For picnic days at the park or beach, bring a couple of Glad® ForceFlex™ MaxStrength Trash Bags along so cleanup is a breeze.

For more ideas with flair, check out @house.of.esperanza on Instagram.

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Pet Safety
Protect Your Pack

It's National Pet Preparedness Month—let this be a reminder to get yourself and your furry family members ready should disaster strike.

Fire

If there's a wildfire and you need to evacuate, your pets should go with you. That means creating a plan with potential places to shelter that will take pets—you can't guarantee all evacuation sites will accept animals, so research now. If the fire is in your house, however, "Don't go back in to grab your pet, as difficult as this is," says Susan Anderson, senior director of disaster response at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Consider adding a pet alert decal to a window so first responders know of the pets in your home. Never let your pet near damaged property after a fire, and if air quality is poor, limit time outside.

Tornado

If you need to take cover based on weather alerts and warnings, your pet does too. Go to the lowest level of your home in a room with no windows. Keep in mind that after the storm, "Your pet may experience stress, fear, and disorientation. Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed," says Roxana Petzold, pet services senior program manager at the American Red Cross. Keep pets away from damaged electrical wires and trees, and look for debris on the ground that could be a hazard. Also be aware that wildlife may have taken shelter in your home, Petzold adds.

Hurricane or Flooding

If local officials issue evacuation orders, follow the same protocol as for a fire. "Never tether [pets] to a pole or a tree or anything that would prevent them from getting to a safe area," Anderson says. If you can't evacuate and there's risk of flooding, go to the highest level of your house. After a hurricane or flood, don't let your pets drink standing water—it can be contaminated.

Earthquake

Unlike other natural disasters, earthquakes often happen without warning. It's important to have large furniture anchored to walls to protect people and animals from falling objects. For any disaster, but especially for earthquakes, identify places in your home where your pet might hide when scared and always make sure your pets are microchipped and the info is up-to-date.

Extreme Temperatures

"If you don't want to be outside, your pet shouldn't be either," Anderson says. In the cold, put jackets on small or short-hair pets (they have less natural protection). In the heat, test walking surfaces with your hand. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them. Treat an overheated pet with cooling packs or cold water on the head or armpits.

PLAN FOR PAWS

There are many circumstances you can't control, but being prepared is one you can.

PUT TOGETHER AN EMERGENCY KIT

Pack a bag to grab if you have to evacuate or shelter. Include enough pet supplies for 7–10 days: food, water, medications, bowls, etc. Add a photo of you and your pet in case you get separated. Check expiration dates and update the kit when you change your clocks.

TAP AN APP

The American Red Cross Pet First Aid app is a great resource for emergencies, including step-by-step instructions for common health and safety problems. You can also connect your vet info and find emergency hospitals and pet-friendly hotels.

CREATE A PLAN

Find a printable checklist at *aspca.org/disasterprep*, then practice your family's emergency plan. "Everyone should have an assigned role," Petzold says. "Who's grabbing which bag? Who's got the dog?" ■

by ELLA FIELD

PHOTO: SMRM1977/ISTOCK BY GETTY IMAGES

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In the Know

News and notes to boost your well-being

Experts say the healthy bacteria in yogurt promote a strong microbiome and may help reduce inflammation.

2

or more servings of yogurt each week could help lower your risk of a certain type of colon cancer.

Scientists found that people who ate that amount were 20 percent less likely to develop colon tumors that test positive for a type of bacteria called Bifidobacterium.

Try this:

Find time to play.

Taking a lighthearted approach to life can boost your mental health and resiliency. Researchers tracked more than 500 people during the pandemic, and, as you might suspect, those who had a more playful attitude felt less stressed and were also more active. Set aside at least 10 minutes for playfulness in your day. Need a little nudge? Try an app like Just Dance or turn chores into games with Habitica or Choreful.app.

78

PERCENT OF ADULTS DRINK LESS THAN 8 CUPS OF WATER DAILY.

A new review published in the journal *Urology* shows that drinking more water (about 2 cups before each meal) can boost weight loss by 44 to 100 percent. It also reduces the risk of other health issues, including kidney stones, urinary tract infections, and migraines. Experts say that in general, women need 11½ cups of fluid daily and men need 15½ cups—but that depends on many factors, such as weight and physical activity. Check the color of your urine, which should be a light yellow. Anything darker means you need to drink up.

National Sunglasses Day is June 27.

Here's your reminder to wear those shades to shield your eyes from UV rays. This helps protect against damage that can lead to conditions that may harm your vision, such as glaucoma. When shopping for sunglasses, don't rely on the color, finish, or price; look for a label that says 100 percent UVA and UVB protection. Larger wraparound styles also limit the amount of UV rays entering from the sides.

$1,352

That's how much more money optimistic people have saved compared to those with less-hopeful outlooks.

Even if you're not the upbeat type, you can start saving gradually with an app like Acorns: Link your debit or credit card to your account, and the app rounds up the price of your purchases and saves and invests the extra.

3 in 10 adults don't wear sunglasses regularly.

F.A.S.T. is an acronym that could save your—or a loved one's—life.

Each letter stands for a check that can identify if someone is having a stroke. **Face:** Smile; if your mouth droops or is uneven, that's a sign. **Arm:** Raise both arms, and if one is weak or numb, that's a red flag. **Speech:** Slurred, confusing, or hard-to-understand speech is a symptom. **Time:** Call 911 right away if you see any one of these signs. The sooner you get treatment, the better the outcome.

BY SHARON LIAO; PHOTOS: (YOGURT) JAY MUCKLE, (PIGGY BANK) ROBYNMAC/ISTOCK BY GETTY IMAGES, (SUNGLASSES) THANANYA/SHUTTERSTOCK

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Courteney spritzes linen spray on her curtains, sheets, and upholstery every day. Bonus: It's a wrinkle releaser. ←

1

4

2

3

5

> "I use more counter spray than anyone in the whole world. I wipe my counters down all the time."
>
> —COURTENEY COX

Courteney COX

Given all her career successes, actor Courteney Cox could do anything she darn well pleases. So what's on her vision board? Laundry.

We fell in love with her homekeeping skills as the super-organized neatnik Monica Geller on *Friends*. It turns out the woman behind the iconic character is just as enthusiastic about her own home. Three years ago, she founded Homecourt, a home and body fragrance company, to make products that smell good. Like, really good. And by doing so, she's elevated chores into an expression of self-care—one spritz at a time. We met up to talk about her new line of laundry fragrances.

DISPLAY WORTHY

Aesthetics matter to Courteney, and the laundry room is no different. "I never want to see a big plastic jug," she says. Homecourt's signature dark glass bottles look pretty on a shelf (1) so you'll want to keep cleaning products out in the open. Even wool laundry balls (2) grouped in a shallow dish add beauty.

THE SNIFF TEST

Courteney finds inspiration all around her. "The woman who dyes my hair uses a balm that smells like a real rose (3), which inspired us to use upcycled rose water," she says of her Steeped Rose scent. The fragrance is cozy and romantic.

A GOOD MOOD

Whether she's lighting a balsam candle or painting her rooms an earthy shade, Courteney is all about creating a warm and inviting home (4). "I'm into natural tones whether they are dark or light," she says. To get ready for company, she cleans the counters and freshens the upholstery with linen spray. And when she needs a little kick to get started? She pours herself a glass of iced yerba maté (5) tea. ■

by KATHY BARNES

PHOTOS: (SHEETS) COURTESY OF WALMART, (SHELVES, PORTRAIT) COURTESY OF HOMECOURT, (DRYER BALLS) KARYB/SHUTTERSTOCK, (ROSE PETALS) NEW AFRICA/SHUTTERSTOCK, (TEA) LLASZLO/SHUTTERSTOCK

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